A NEW

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND;

FROM THE

Invaſion of JULIUS CÆSAR,

TO THE

Beginning of the Year MDCCXCIX.

Adorned with CUTS of all the KINGS and QUEENS who have reigned ſince the NORMAN Conqueſt.

The Memory of Things paſt ought not to be extinguiſhed by Length of Time, nor great and admirable Actions remain deſtitute of Glory.

Herodotus.

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A DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCIENT STATE OF BRITAIN.

THIS iſland was formerly called Albion probably from its white cliffs, and Britain, as is conjectured, from Birth, an old Engliſh word that ſignifies painting the ſkin: it being a cuſtom among the ancient Britons to paint their naked bodies, and ſmall ſhields, of an azure blue colour, which was by them called Birth, by which name it was ſuppoſed the inhabitants themſelves were diſtinguiſhed by ſtrangers who came to trade in the iſland. To this the Greeks added the word Tanie, or Country, and form-

ed Brithtane, or the Country of Painted Men, which, with a little variation, was changed into Britannia by the Romans.

It is to be obſerved, that the Britons not only painted their ſkins, but likewiſe depicted on their bodies figures of the Sun, Moon, Stars, &c. in the manner repreſented in the Frontiſpiece.

Whether theſe people were *Aborigines*, Gauls, or Trojans, is uncertain: for they took no care to tranſmit their origin to poſterity: or if they did, their writings have periſhed. The only account, therefore, of the ancient Britons that can be depended on, is that given us by Julius Cæſar, from whom take the following extract: "The inner part of Britain, ſays he, was inhabited by thoſe whom tradition recorded "to be originally produced in the iſland, and "the ſea coaſt by thoſe who came out of Belgium, or the Netherlands, either to make "incurſions or invaſions, who, after the war "was ended, continued in the poſſeſſions they "had gained, and were called by the name of "the cities from whence they came. The "country is very populous, and well inhabited, with houſes much like thoſe in France. "They have great ſtore of cattle, and uſe braſs "for money, or iron rings weighed at a cer-

"tain

"tain rate. In the midland part there is "found great quantities of lead and tin, and "in maritime parts iron; however, they have "but little of that, and their braſs is brought "in by other nations. They have all ſorts of "trees which they have in France, excepting "the Beech and the Fir. Their religion will "not ſuffer them to eat either hare, hen, or "gooſe; notwithſtanding they breed them all, "as well for novelty as diverſion: The coun-"try is more temperate, and not ſo cold as "France. Of all the inhabitants, thoſe of "Kent are moſt courteous and civil; all their "country bordering upon the ſea, and little "differing from the manner of France. Moſt "of the inland people ſow no corn, but live "upon milk and fleſh, and are either clothed "with ſkins, or naked. All the Britons in "general paint their fleſh with blue, to the "end they may ſeem more terrible in fight. "They have the hair of their head long, but "all other parts of their body ſhaven, except "their upper lip."

The ancient inhabitants of this iſland, though it was divided into ſeveral cities, and ſtates, ſeem to have conſiſted only of the three ſorts of men whom Cæſar calls Equites, Druids, and Plebes, anſwering, as we may ſuppoſe, to

our Nobility, Clergy, and Commonalty, the laſt of whom had no ſhare in the government, and were but a ſort of ſlaves or dependants on the other two.

The Equites were conſidered in their ſeveral ſtates as Princes or Chiefs, and had authority, power and a number of followers in proportion as they excelled one another in birth and wealth; each Chief being, we may ſuppoſe not unlike the head of a clan in Scotland, or of the Scepts in Ireland: and this ſeems to have been the original ſtate of government, not only here, but in other parts of the world, and was deduced from the natural force and right of paternal dominion. The men had the power of life and death over their wives, children and ſlaves, and none were permitted to ſpeak of matters of ſtate, but in aſſemblies held for that purpoſe

The Druids, ſo called from the Britiſh word Deru, ſignifying an oak (either becauſe their ſacred places were in groves, or from the phyſical virtues they attributed to the miſſletoe, which grew on the oaks (had the whole care of their laws, religion and learning; for a knowledge in which the people applied to them, and held their perſons in great veneration. Cæſar tells us, that the learning of the ancient

ancient Druids had its ſource in Britain; whence it was transferred to France, and that even in his time thoſe who were willing to attain a perfect knowledge of their learning and dicipline, travelled into Britain for that purpoſe; whence we may conclude, that the Druids of Britain and France taught the ſame doctrine. The Chief of the Druids had great authority, and was a ſort of Preſident over the reſt, and at his death, he who excelled in dignity, generally ſucceeded; but when there happened to be ſeveral equals, the Preſident was choſen by election, and ſometimes by force of arms.

The Bardi, or Bards, were Druids or Prieſts of an inferior order, whoſe principal buſineſs was to celebrate the praiſes of their heroes in verſes, which they ſet to muſic, and ſung to their harps.

The Ubates were alſo Prieſts of an inferior degree, who, as Strabo tells us, employed themſelves in the ſtudy of philoſophy and the works of nature.

Theſe Druids met once a year at a time and place agreed on for the execution of their laws; when all perſons who had controverſies of right and wrong, or who had criminals in charge, came for their determination. They had a ſupreme

preme power either to puniſh or acquit; and if any perſon refuſed to obey their decree, he was excommunicated, that is diveſted of all his rights, both religious and civil, and hated by all men. Their worſhip was much like that of all other idolaters: Mercury was their principal God whom they adored as the inventor of arts, the conductor of voyages and journies, and as the diſpoſer of gain and merchandize; Apollo they adored for his power in healing diſeaſes; Minerva for communicating knowledge; Jupiter for governing the celeſtial empire; and Mars for his aid in battle, to whoſe uſe they generally conſecrated their ſpoils of war, and ſacrificed ſuch beaſts as were taken from the enemy; and ſometimes in extreme danger they even ſacrificed their criminals, and for want of them, their innocent ſlaves, by putting them alive in wicker images of prodigious magnitude, which being made of oſiers were ſet on fire that all might be conſumed together. The doctrine of the Druids was principally intended to teach men, *The might and power of the immortal Gods:* and, *That the ſouls of men did not die; but tranſmigrate or paſs from one to another after death*; which laſt tenet was thought to fit men to virtue and valour, and enabled them to caſt off the fear of death.

death. Their learning conſiſted principally in philoſophical and aſtronomical enquiries concerning the ſtars and their motions, the magnitude of the earth and the world, and the nature of things in general; to which perhaps may be added, from their application and veneration of the miſletoe, a knowledge of diſeaſes and the method of cure. But this their ſcience was, by their law, concealed from the common people, and therefore no part of it was tranſcribed, but committed to the memory, and retained in an infinite number of verſes, which they often repeated: a knowledge of their ſcience, therefore, when a perſon was admitted into their claſs, required great ſtudy and application; and even with that, was not to be obtained, perhaps, in leſs than twenty years. Their other tranſactions, whether public or private, were uſually recorded in the Greek tongue, of which language they were poſſeſſed when Cæſar invaded Britain.

Of the Invaſion and Government of BRITAIN *by the* ROMANS.

AMBITIOUS men, to avoid the imputation of cruelty, endeavour to draw from juſtice and equity a colour to diſguiſe their actions; this was the caſe with Cæſar, whoſe pretence for invading Britain was, that they had aſſiſted the French with forces to be employed againſt him; and that Mandubratius, a Britiſh Chief, applied to him for ſuccours againſt his uncle Caſſivellanus, or Caſſibalaun, who had murdered his father king Lud, as is generally ſuppoſed, though Cæſar calls him Imanuentius; for this, or for other reaſons, that are too obvious to be concealed, Cæſar, after having enquired into the ſtate of the iſland, ſent Voluſanus in a galley to find out the beſt landing places, while he, with two legions, containing 8000 foot, and eighty ſhips, beſides

ſides gallies, ſailed from Calais in the night, and the next morning arrived on the Coaſt of Britain; where the inhabitants, who had heard of his coming, were ready to receive him, and attacked the Romans ſo furiouſly as they attempted to land, that they failed of their uſual courage, which one of their enſigns, or Eagle-bearers, perceiving, jumped over-board, and with a loud voice cried, *Follow me, brother ſoldiers, unleſs you will forſake your ſtandard and betray it to the enemy: as for my part I'll do my duty to my country and my General.* Upon which, thoſe in that ſhip immediately followed, and preſſing hard on the Britons, the battle by degrees became general and bloody; at length, however, the Romans got footing on the iſland, and put the inhabitants to flight, but were not able to follow them for want of their horſemen, whom Cæſar had ordered to embark in 18 ſhips at St. Omer's, and who by a ſudden ſtorm were driven back, and ſo diſperſed, that not one arrived.

The Britons, after this engagement, diſpatched meſſengers to Cæſar to intreat for peace, promiſing hoſtages and obedience; and many of their Princes and Rulers came to commend themſelves and their ſtates to him; whereupon a peace was concluded four days after

after his arrival. But the Britons being afterwards informed that Cæſar's horſe were driven back, and the ſhips that brought over his army almoſt deſtroyed by a tempeſt, thought proper to rebel; ſending therefore meſſengers up into the country to inform their friends what a favourable opportunity they had of perpetuating their liberty, and of even obtaining a conſiderable booty, they collected a body to attack the Romans, and ſeveral ſkirmiſhes enſued. Cæſar, in all theſe encounters, endeavoured only to keep them off, till he could repair his ſhattered fleet to return to France; but the Britons, having by degrees ſtrengthened their army with a great number of horſe and foot, boldly attacked the Romans in their camp, and the battle was very obſtinate and bloody; but the Britons were at laſt put to flight and purſued for a conſiderable diſtance by the Roman ſoldiers, who burnt all the towns they could come at that day, and then returned to their camp. Upon this the Britons again ſent meſſengers to Cæſar to intreat for peace, which Cæſar again granted them on doubling the number of their hoſtages, with whom, as the winter was at hand, he ſailed immediately for France.

The next ſpring, however, he returned to Britain

Britain with 800 ſhips and an army of five legions, containing about 20,000 foot and 2,000 horſe. The Britons, notwithſtanding they had given hoſtages, collected an armed force on the cliffs near Dover to receive him, but were ſo terrified at the prodigious armament of the Romans that they retired 12 miles towards Canterbury Cæſar followed, and they for a long time bravely contended for their lives and liberties, but were at laſt obliged to give way. Cæſar could not purſue them, being under a neceſſity of returning to his fleet, which a tempeſt, the night before, had almoſt deſtroyed. The damage however he repaired in ten days,& to prevent future accidents of that kind hauled up all his ſhips on ſhore, & incloſed them, in his camp. During the ten days Cæſar was thus employed, the Britons, who had many ſtates and kings, whoſe intereſts had interfered, that they were at continual war with each other, united their forces, and unanimouſly choſe Caſſivellanus, King of the Trinobantes, for their general; and this Prince, with his brave Britons, gave Cæſar as much trouble as ever he met with, and more abundantly than he expected, few days paſſing even for a whole ſummer, but what they had battles on each ſide of the river Thames; and the Britons by means

of

of their fortified wood and war chariots, deſtroyed great numbers of their invaders.

Cæſar tells us, that in theſe chariots the Britons rode about, and caſt their weapons as an advantage offered; that the terror of their horſes and their wheels much diſordered his forces; and when they had run in between any troops of horſe they alighted from their chariots and fought on foot; the charioteers in the mean time poſting themſelves ſo that their maſters might retire to them in caſe they were overpowered. Thus theſe chariots, ſome of which had a ſort of ſcythe fixed to them to mow down their enemies, performed in fight the nimble motion of horſe, and the firm ſtability of foot; and the drivers were by daily practice grown ſo dextrous, that they could ſtop their horſes on the deſcent of a ſteep hill, and turn them ſhort, or direct their courſe with great eaſe: and what is alſo extraordinary, they could run along the pole of the chariot, reſt upon the yoke or harneſs, and return again at pleaſure.

Both Cæſar, however, & his forces had great fortitude, for they had been long inured to war; and Caſſivellanus, being at length forſaken by moſt of his confederate Kings and Chiefs who had revolted to Cæſar, was obliged not only to make

make terms with Mandubratius, but to ſue for peace in the name of the whole people; which was purchaſed at the expence of a yearly tribute, and a number of hoſtages; with which Cæſar left the iſland, and never returned again. But during this war, it is ſaid that he took Verulam the chief town belonging to Caſſivellanus.

This is Cæſar's account of the invaſion, and by his account (which we may ſuppoſe was not written in diſfavour of himſelf or his followers) it appears that the Britons made a brave ſtruggle for liberty, which has ever been dear to the inhabitants of this iſland, and which they probably would have obtained even againſt the immortal Cæſar, had not ſome private negotiations been ſet on foot to take off the other Princes from uniting their forces with thoſe of Caſſivellanus; and even as it was, Cæſar had enough of the Britons, and was ſick of the enterprize, or he would never, after all the advantages he mentions, have departed quietly with a few ſimple hoſtages & the promiſe of a trifling tax, without fortifying a ſingle place, or leaving any garriſon in the iſland.

After this, Britain continued tributary to the Romans near 500 years, but they frequently rebelled and refuſed to pay. It was firſt refuſed to Caligula, the fourth Emperor after Julius

Cæſar, who was ſo incenſed at the indignity, that he went againſt them himſelf; but either his courage or his force was inſufficient for the undertaking, and therefore, being afraid to attempt an invaſion, he made his ſoldiers load their helmets with pebbles and cockle-ſhells, and returned in a very ridiculous manner triumphing with what he called the ſpoils of the Ocean. But Aulus Plautius, and Oſtorius Scapula, in the reign of Claudius, ſo far ſubdued the Britons, that they carried their King Caracticus in triumph to Rome, who, on ſeeing the riches and magnificence of that city, reproved their avarice, and aſked, *how they, who were maſters of ſuch glorious things could be ſo greedy after the mean huts and poſſeſſions of the poor* Britons. They rebelled again under Nero, who being left guardian to Queen Boadicea and her two daughters, his officers abuſed their truſt, and revolt enſued, in which 80,000 of the Romans were cut off. In another battle, however, which happened in conſequence thereof, the Romans defeated the Britons, and ſlew 70,000; which ſo affected Queen Boadicea, that ſhe deſtroyed herſelf. In the reign of Flavius Veſpatian they rebelled again; and in the time of Domitian, they rebelled and killed a number of Romans; but were reduced by Julius

Julius Agricola, the Roman Deputy, who killed 10,000 Britons, and ſubdued the whole iſland, except the mountainous parts of Wales and Cornwall, whither the unconquered Britons retired, and preſerved both their liberty and language.

I. WILLIAM *th* Conquerer, *from* 1066 *to* 1087.

WILLIAM, a ſpurious branch of *Rollo*'s race,
From *Norman's* Duke to England's king we trace,
He conquer'd *Saxon* HAROLD, ſeiz'd the throne,
Was brave, but proud, and partial to his own.

WILLIAM I. *commonly called the* CONQUEROR.

THIS Prince was the natural ſon of Robert VI. Duke of Normandy, by Alletta, a furrier's daughter. Harold being ſlain in battle, William who was about 52 years of age, marched directly to London, where he claimed the crown by the teſtament of king Edward the Confeſſor. On his way to that city, he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each with a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigard, the Archbiſhop who made a ſpeech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preſervation of their liberties, and let him know that they were reſolved rather to die than to part with their laws and live in bondage.

WILLIAM thought proper to grant their demands, and ſuffered them to retain their ancient cuſtoms.

Upon his Coronation at Weſtminſter, he was ſworn to govern by the Laws of the realm, and though he introduced ſome new forms, yet he preſerved to the Engliſh their trials by juries, and the borough law. He inſtituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer: but at the ſame time diſarmed his Engliſh ſubjects, and forbid

their having any light in their houſes after eight o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called Curfew or cover fire, at the ſound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered ſeveral powers who invaded England; obliged the Scots to preſerve the peace they had broken: compelled the Welſh to pay him tribute; refuſed himſelf to pay homage to the Pope; built the Tower of London; and had all public acts made in the Norman Tongue. He oppreſſed the people by taxes, and made a law by which every man who killed a deer was to have his eyes put out. He cauſed all England to be ſurveyed and rated, and the men numbered, in a work called Doomſday-book, which is ſtill in being.

To curb the inſolence of the French, who had invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his ſon Robert, who appeared there in arms againſt him, he carried over with him an Engliſh army, and left his own troops at home. William in a general engagement had like to have been killed by his ſon: but Robert, when he found that he was engaged with his father, dutifully ſubmitted to him, though he was victorious.

William invaded France, and taking Mantes in Auguſt 1087, he ordered it to be reduced to aſhes: but approached ſo near the flames

flames, that the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the ſeaſon, threw him into a fever, which, being increaſed by a fall from his horſe in his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city on the 9th of September following, in the 61ſt year of his age, after a reign of 52 years in Normandy, and 21 in England, and was buried at Caen.

WILLIAM was tall, broad ſet, and of great ſtrength. His paſſions were violent. He had much wiſdom, but more diſſimulation; great wealth, but greater avarice; was fond of fame, but ſevere to his opponents in war.

In this reign Richard, the king's ſecond ſon, was killed by a ſtag in the New Foreſt. There was a great fire in London, which conſumed St. Paul's: and an earthquake which happened on a Chriſtmas-Day.

WILLIAM II.

WILLIAM the ſecond ſurviving ſon of William the conqueror, who was from the colour of his hair ſurnamed Rufus or Red, ſucceeded his father in 1087. He was then thirty years of age, and at the ſame time his brother Robert ſucceeded to the duchy of Normandy. Robert reſolved to aſſert his right of primogeni-

II. WILLIAM *the* SECOND, *from* 1087 to 1100.

WILLIAM the Second won but little fame;
He built that Hall which Weſtminſter we name
Was valiant, raſh, intemperate and vain,
And was by Tyrrell in New Foreſt ſlain.

ture to the crown of England, and ſeveral of the Norman nobility eſpouſed his cauſe; but William put an end to the rebellion, by defeating a body of troops in Kent; and ſoon after, partly by force & partly by bribery, obliged his brother to conclude a peace. The two brothers then made war on their younger brother Henry, whom they beſieged in Mount St. Michael; where William, one morning riding out unattended, fell in with a party of Henry's ſoldiers, and endeavoured to force his way through them, but was diſmounted, and a ſoldier was going to diſpatch him, when he cried out, "Hold, fellow, "I am the king of England." On this the man dropping his ſword, raiſed the Monarch from the ground, & received from him the honour of knighthood, and other favours. The brothers were ſoon reconciled, and William turned his arms againſt Scotland, and defeated the army of their King Malcolm: that prince and his ſon being juſt before killed in an ambuſh laid by Mowbray the Governor of Northumberland. Soon after, Robert de Mowbray, finding that the King had neglected to reward his ſervices, joined with ſeveral other noblemen to ſet the crown on the head of Stephen, grandſon to William the Conqueror; upon which the king marched into Yorkſhire, reduced

duced Bamborough caſtle, took Mowbray priſoner, and put an end to the rebellion.

At length, as William was hunting in the New Foreſt, he was ſlain with an arrow ſhot by Walter Tyrrell, his particular favourite, who, aiming at a deer, ſtruck the king full in the breaſt, and he immediately expired, on the 2d of Auguſt 1100, aged 44, after a reign of 13 years, and was conveyed to Wincheſter in a collier's cart.

HENRY I.

THIS Prince, the youngeſt ſon of William the Conqueror, was, on account of his great learning, ſurnamed Beauclerc. He was born at Selby in Yorkſhire in 1070; and the Engliſh, looking upon him as their natural Prince, raiſed him to the throne in 1100, though his eldeſt brother Robert was living, but he was engaged in the Holy Land. Henry was at that time 30 years of age, and had before ſhewn himſelf a politic and brave Prince. He was no ſooner ſeated on the throne, than he began to make amendments in the laws of the realm, and to aboliſh ſome abuſes which had crept into the church. About this time, Robert returning from Jeruſalem, Henry endeavoured

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Learn'd and polite, the conqueror's youngeſt ſon
By wiſdom kept the crown his wiles and won.
Brave, handſome, ſober, to his ſubjects kind,
Yet faithleſs, covetous, to luſt inclin'd.

to ſecure himſelf on the throne by marrying the Princeſs Matilda daughter to Malcolm King of Scotland, by Margaret the ſiſter of Edgar Atheling.

Duke Robert, however, being determined to revive his claim, landed at Portſmouth in 1102; but when both armies were ready to engage, a treaty was propoſed to ſave the effuſion of blood; and it was agreed, that Henry ſhould retain his kingdom, relinquiſh to Robert the poſſeſſion of Normandy, and pay him 3000 marks a year; and that if one of the brothers died without children, the other ſhould ſucceed him in his dominions. Robert afterwards, being diſturbed by a formidable inſurrection, and having deprived himſelf of all Normandy, except the city of Roan, by mortgaging it to pay his debts, applied to his brother for aſſiſtance; on which Henry levied an army, paſſed into Normandy, ſeized ſeveral cities, and on his return to England, was followed by his brother as a ſuppliant to a conqueror for mercy: But Henry was deaf to all his entreaties; on which Robert returned and obtained the aſſiſtance of France and ſome of the neighbouring Princes: but Henry going with an army to Normandy, totally defeated the allies, took the Duke himſelf priſoner, ſeized upon his dominions,

nions, and confined him in Cardiff caſtle, Wales. Some time after, Henry's only ſon William, & the Counteſs of Perche, his natural daughter, in their paſſage by ſea from Barfleur to England, were unfortunately drowned: which gave Henry ſuch deep affliction, that according to ſome hiſtorians, he was never after ſeen to laugh. His brother Robert, after a confinement of 27 years, and the moſt ſevere and cruel treatment, died in priſon, and his death was ſoon followed by that of Henry, who fell ill by eating to exceſs of ſome lampreys at his caſtle of Lyon near Roan, which carried him off in ſeven days. He died on the 1ſt of December 1135, in the 68th year of his Age, and the 36th of his reign; and was buried at Reading in a monaſtery of his own founding. The Empreſs Maud was his only legitimate child then living, though he had twelve natural children.

HENRY was very learned, and had ſo great a regard for the ſciences, that he built a palace at Oxford, whither he often retired. He had black hair, was of middling ſtature, had a handſome perſon and engaging deportment; but theſe accompliſhments were ſullied by his cruelty, avarice, and inordinate love of women. In his reign, Wincheſter, Glouceſter, and Worceſter were burnt. The Thames, Med-

way,

IV. STEPHEN, *from* 1135 *to* 1155.

Valiant and prudent, but of dubious right,
Which oft with various chance, was try'd in fight
At length, his own son dead, this Prince agreed
That Henry, son of Maud, should him succeed.

way, and Trent were almoſt dried up. In the 33d year of his reign London was burnt from Weſtcheap to Aldgate.

STEPHEN.

THE Norman government, which had ſubſided ſixty-nine years in England, was now extinct. The Empreſs Maud or Matilda ſucceeded her father in the duchy of Normandy; but though her right of the crown of England had been recognized in parliament, Stephen Earl of Bologne, the third ſon of the Earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter to William the conqueror, got poſſeſſion of the throne, and was crowned on the 22d of December 1135. Stephen revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confeſſor. In this reign, the inſolence of the clergy obliged Stephen to ſeize the caſtle belonging to the biſhops of Saliſbury, Lincoln, and Ely. The ſpirit of rebellion upon this occaſion prevailed, and the Empreſs Maud ſeized the opportunity of aſſerting in perſon a right to the crown. The King beſieged the Empreſs in Wallingford, purſued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the Earl of Glouceſter before that city when the king was taken priſoner; before which he had his battle-axe and ſword, and

was

was knocked down on his knees with a ſtone. He was then confined in irons in Windſor caſtle.

Maud was now acknowledged Sovereign, but behaved with great haughtineſs: King Stephen's conſort humbly intreated her to ſet her huſband at liberty promiſing that he ſhould reſign his crown and end his days in a monaſtery; but ſhe diſmiſſed her with ſuch contempt, that the late queen recovering reſolution, raiſed a large body of forces; and Maud refuſing to mitigate the ſeverity of the Norman laws, a revolt enſued, and the King was ſet at liberty. All the Adherents to Maud were at length obliged to retire to Normandy; however, the young Prince Henry her ſon, obtaining aſſiſtance from France, returned to England; but when both Princes were preparing for battle, a truce was agreed on, and it was ſtipulated that the King ſhould enjoy the crown during life, and that after his deceaſe Henry ſhould ſucceed to the throne, Stephen died on the 25th of October at Canterbury, in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign, and was buried in the Abbey of Feverſham in Kent.

In this reign there was a great fire in London;

don; the city of York was burnt to the ground, Rocheſter was alſo burnt to the ground.

HENRY II.

HENRY PLANTAGENET, the ſon of the Empreſs Maud by Geoffrey Earl of Anjou, was crowned in 1154, in the 23d year of his age. In 1159, Henry concluded a marriage between his eldeſt ſon and Margaret the daughter of the French King, though the young prince was only five years of age, and the Princeſs but ſix months old. The duke of Brittany alſo gave his daughter Conſtance in marriage to Geoffrey, another of Henry's ſons, then in his cradle.

HENRY was diſturbed at home by the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raiſed from a mean degree to the ſeat of Canterbury, and the Dignity of high Chancellor. The diſpute ran ſo high, that the Archbiſhop was obliged to fly the kingdom. The affair however, being at length determined; Becket returned to England, and raiſed ſuch diſturbances, that four Knights thinking to pleaſe the king, murdered him in his cathedral of Canterbury. This prelate was afterwards honoured with the title of a Martyr, and canonized by the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

V. HENRY *the* SECOND, *from* 1154 *to* 1189.

First of Plantagenets, now HENRY reigns,
Fam'd for his pow'r, his luſt and large domains;
A prieſt imperious vex'd him all his life,
His ſons prov'd rebels, and a ſhrew his wife.

HENRY ſailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland, and landing at Waterford on the 18th of October 1172, all the Iriſh Princes voluntarily ſwore allegiance to him; ſo that he became maſter of that kingdom, without bloodſhed, and divided great part of the country among the Engliſh nobles, &c. who attended him in the expedition; from whom ſprung the principal families in Ireland. The ſame year, the Pope's legate prevailed on the King to do penance by going barefoot three miles to Becket's ſhrine; and to be ſcourged by the Auguſtine Monks, who gave him fourſcore laſhes on his naked back.

HENRY met with great vexation in his own family: Eleanor his Queen, being jealous of Roſamond, the Lord Clifford's daughter, who was the King's miſtreſs, and whom he kept at Woodſtock in a labyrinth built to ſecure her from the Queen's rage, found means to diſpatch her by poiſon; and the young Princes his ſons, being joined by ſeveral of the nobility, and aſſiſted by the Kings of France and Scotland, raiſed a great rebellion. Henry, however, took the king of Scotland priſoner, and became maſter of the principal places in Guienne, Anjou, Poictou, and Brittany, reſtored the young Princes to favour, and par-

doned all the revolters; but obliged the King of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom.

HENRY was ſo mortified at the diſobedience of his ſons, that through grief he fell ſick at Chinon in Touraine, and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar on the 6th of July 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. He was ſtripped by his domeſtics, and left quite naked in the church; but was afterwards buried at Fonteveraud in Anjou.

HENRY was of a middle ſtature; his hair was buſhy, he had a Roman noſe, and his legs were ſomewhat deformed: he was valiant and learned, prudent and polite, generous, and of a mild diſpoſition; among his vices, luſt was his predominant paſſion.

In his reign lions were firſt kept in the Tower of London. London bridge was rebuilt with timber. There was an earthquake, by which the Church of Lincoln and ſeveral others were deſtroyed.

RICHARD, for boiſt'rous courage chiefly known,
Waſted his years in countries not his own;
A pris'ner long, at laſt untimely ſlain:
England had ſmall advantage from his reign.

RICHARD I.

RICHARD, the eldeſt ſon of Henry II. who was from his bravery ſurnamed Cœur de Lion, or Lion-hearted, was 32 years of age when his father died. He was crowned in Weſtminſter Abbey on the 3d of September 1189. On the day of his coronation the Jews of London flocking to make preſents to him, the mob robbed and murdered all they met with, plundered and ſet fire to their houſes. At York 500 Jews, women and children, ſhut themſelves up in a caſtle, and there died by their own hands rather than ſubmit to their perſecution.

RICHARD had no ſooner aſcended the throne, than he went to the Holy War, in conjunction with Philip King of France. Richard, being driven by contrary winds to the iſle of Cyprus landed his troops there, and took Iſaac, the King of that iſland, and his daughter priſoners; conquered the whole country, was made King, and afterwards transferred his right to that iſland to Guy Luſignan, titular King of Jeruſalem, in exchange for that empty title. Hence the Engliſh Monarchs were for a long time ſtiled Kings of Jeruſalem.

In

In the abſence of Richard, which laſted four years, Prince John his brother uſurped the ſovereign authority; but the king ſoon ſuppreſſed his brother's party, levied a numerous army, and invaded France: and at the battle of Blois, Richard took all the Archives of the French kingdom. After which he was preparing to return to England, when a gentleman of Limoſin, having diſcovered a treaſure upon his eſtate, the King claimed it as a ſovereign of Guienne: the gentleman took ſhelter in the caſtle of Chaluz, which the King beſieged; in reconnoitring the walls, he received a wound, of which he died on the 6th of April 1199, aged 42, after a reign of nine years and nine months. The caſtle being taken before the King died, he ordered all the garriſon to be hanged; but pardoned the man who wounded him.

He appointed by will his brother John to ſucceed him in all his dominions.

JOHN.

JOHN, ſurnamed Lackland, the brother of Richard, aſcended the throne without much oppoſition in 1199; for though Arthur, Duke of Brittany, ſon of Geoffrey, the late King's brother, had the hereditary right, yet

VII. JOHN, *from* 1199 *to* 1216.

JOHN's reign was full of troubles and turmoils
From his bad conduct, and from prieſtly wiles;
England's great Charter, by the Barons won,
He gave; but to the Pope reſign'd his crown.

John was elected King, on condition that he ſhould reſtore and eſtabliſh the rights of the people. He was then 32 years of age, and having alſo ſeized the duchy of Normandy, he left Arthur only the poſſeſſion of ſome of the provinces enjoyed by the Engliſh in France.

JOHN had ſeveral conteſts with the Pope, who had excommunicated him, and abſolved the people of England from their oath of allegiance, and now ſent Pandulph his Nuncio into England, who offered him the pope's protection, on condition of his taking an oath to obey the Pontiff in all things, and reſign his crown into the hands of the Nuncio. To this John conſented, repaired to Dover church, and in the preſence of the people took off his crown, diſrobed himſelf of all the enſigns of Royalty, and laid them at the feet of the Nuncio, who was ſeated on a throne. After which he ſigned a charter, whereby he reſigned the kingdom of England and the lordſhip of Ireland to the Holy See, and bound himſelf as a vaſſal to pay 700 marks annually for England, & 300 for Ireland, and then did homage to the Pope in the perſon of his Nuncio, who kept the crown and ſceptre five days in his poſſeſſion.

The Engliſh Barons, fired with indignation at this meanneſs, had recourſe to arms, and demanded

manded a re-eſtabliſhment of the laws of Edward the Confeſſor, and renewal of the charter of Henry the firſt: which being refuſed by the King they elected Robert Fitzwalter for their General, entered London, and beſieged him in the Tower. The King complied, when he could no longer reſiſt, and agreed to meet the Barons in Runnemead, or the Mead of Council, between Staines and Windſor; and there being unable to obtain ſupplies from his people, and alſo too weak to withſtand them, granted whatever they deſired, and hence aroſe the famous charter of liberties called Magna Charta, which he was obliged to ſign, and alſo the charter of the liberties of the foreſt, which have been ſince eſteemed the foundation of the Engliſh liberties. The King, however, though he had ratified theſe charters with a ſolemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders and ravaged the whole kingdom; upon this the barons applied for aſſiſtance from the King of France, promiſing the crown to his ſon Lewis, if he freed them from John's tyranny. Lewis ſoon came to their aſſiſtance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rocheſter, while John retired to Wincheſter, having prevailed on the Pope to excommunicate both the French King and the Engliſh Barons; but being deſerted by ſome

ſome of his mercenaries, the Dauphin beſieged Dover, while the Barons inveſted Windſor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length grief and fatigue threw the King into a fever which is ſaid to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died on the 18th of October 1216, in the 51ſt year of his age, and the 17th of his reign.

In this reign London Bridge which was before of wood, was built entirely of ſtone.

HENRY III.

HENRY of Wincheſter was but 12 years of age when the Earl of Pembroke had him crowned at Glouceſter, October 28, 1216. The uſual oath was adminiſtered, and the Legate cauſed him to do homage to the Holy See. Many of the Barons who had ſworn allegiance to the Dauphin joined with Henry, and the Pope renewed his excommunication againſt Lewis: after this, a truce was concluded & prolonged till Eaſter; ſoon after which, the French laid ſiege to Lincoln caſtle, but being unſucceſsful in that and ſome other attempts, Lewis was obliged to come to a compoſition, and agreed

VIII. HENRY *the* THIRD, *from* 1216 *to* 1272.

This King chief note in hiſtory does gain
From civil diſcords, and the longeſt reign;
Fickle and weak, he ſaw his crown juſt gone
Yet dying, left it to his warlike ſon.

greed to return home, and to reſtore the Engliſh dominions in France.

HENRY began his majority with exacting large ſums, and annulling the two ſacred charters granted by his father. He landed in Brittany with a numerous army, and then ſpending his time with diverſions, ſhamefully returned, after he had ſpent all his treaſure. He afterwards renewed the war in which he loſt all Poictou, and then concluded a truce with Lewis for five years, to purchaſe which Henry conſented to pay him 5000l. annually.

The King met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters, which was done in Weſtminſter-Hall, in the following manner, viz. the Peers being aſſembled in the preſence of the King, each holding a lighted taper, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curſe againſt thoſe who ſhould violate the laws; or alter the conſtitution of the kingdom; then the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the King, who all this time kept his hand upon his breaſt: after which every one threw his taper on the ground to raiſe a great ſmoke, and wiſhed *that thoſe who violated the charters might ſmoke in hell.* After which, the parliament granted him a ſubſidy for ſuppreſſing an inſur-

reſtion

rection in Guienne. He ſoon reduced the province, and returned to England where he renewed his exactions. Prince Richard, Henry's brother, being elected King of the Romans, took the immenſe ſum of 700,000l. into Germany; to ſupport his election; while the King amaſſed 950,000 marks for an expedition to the Two Sicilies which were offered him by the Pope though the crown belonged to Conradin, the Emperor Conrad's ſon. In ſhort, the people were grievouſly oppreſſed, and the Barons, finding that Henry could not be bound by the moſt ſolemn oaths, undertook to reform the government; accordingly commiſſioners were choſen by the King and the Barons, and articles agreed on; which the King again broke. At laſt they came to an open war, when a deciſive battle was fought near Lewis in Suſſex, in which the King's army was defeated, and himſelf, Prince Edward and the King of the Romans taken priſoners; but afterwards the Earls Leiceſter and Glouceſter quarreling, the latter joined Prince Edward, who had eſcaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched againſt the Earl of Leiceſter, whom they defeated and ſlew. The King was ſet at liberty, but peace was not reſtored till ſome time after, when prince Edward engaged in a cruſade

and

and went to the holy Land, Henry died at London, Nov. 20, 1272, aged 65, in the 56th year of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter Abbey.

EDWARD I.

EDWARD, ſurnamed Longſhanks, was aged 33, when his father died, and was crowned on his return from Paleſtine, where with only 10,000 Engliſhmen, he ſtruck a general panic into the Saracens. He narrowly eſcaped being murdered there by an aſſaſſin, from whom he received a wound in his arm which was given by a poiſoned dagger; and it is affirmed, that he owed his life to the affection of Eleanor his wife, who was with him, and ſucked the venom out of the wound. He arrived in England with his faithful Queen, July 25, 1274, and they were both crowned at Weſtminſter, on the 19th of Auguſt following. He began his reign with a ſtrict enquiry into the affairs of his kingdom, &c. and confirmed the great charter.

He then ſet about rectifying the coin which had been ſo much adulterated by the Jews, and cauſed 280 of them to be put to death.

EDWARD, having defeated and killed Lewellyn, a petty King of Wales, who had revolted

IX. EDWARD I. *from* 1271 *to* 1307.

Far diſtant, when acknowledg'd EDWARD came
Aſſum'd the crown, and rul'd with matchleſs fame
Welch, Scots he conquer'd made and unmade Kings,
Reform'd the law, and clip'd the clergy's wings.

ed, afterwards ſummoned a parliament at Ruthen, where it was reſolved that Wales ſhould be inſeparably united to England. But ſome of the Welch nobles telling the King that he would never peaceable enjoy their country till they were governed by a Prince of their own nation, he ſent for his Queen, who was then pregnant, to lie in at Caernarvon, where ſhe was brought to bed of a prince, whom the ſtates of Wales acknowledged for their Sovereign; and ſince that time the eldeſt ſons of the Kings of England have borne the title of Prince of Wales. Edward baniſhed 15,000 Jews for uſury and adulterating the coin. Soon after this, Queen Eleanor died at Grantham in Lincolnſhire; to whoſe memory the King erected a croſs at every place where the corpſe reſted in the way to Weſtminſter.

Edward carried his arms into Scotland where he took the three important places of Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh. John Baliol their King, who was ſupported by Edward, repaired to him in the moſt humble manner, renewed the oath of fealty, and put the whole kingdom in his power. While Edward was in Flanders, endeavouring to recover ſome dominions he had loſt in France by treachery, William Wallace, the glory of Scotland roſe up in the defence of

his country, and having ſuddenly diſpoſſeſſed the Engliſh of all the ſtrong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom; on which Edward haſtily returned from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a powerful army, and defeated Wallace, who ſeveral years after was betrayed into the hands of the Engliſh and ſent to London, where Edward treated him with unpardonable ſeverity, and made this great hero ſuffer the death of a traitor. Edward thrice conquered Scotland, and at length vowed that he would deſtroy that kingdom from ſea to ſea, but was ſeized with a dyſentery, & died in the little Town of Burgh, July 7, 1307, in the 68th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign, but his body was interred in Weſtminſter-Abbey.

EDWARD was a head taller than the generality of men; his perſon was well made, ſtrong and handſome; but his legs being rather too long he was thence called Longſhanks. His regard for the laws was ſo great that he publicly impriſoned the Prince of Wales his ſon, for breaking into the park of the Biſhop of Lincoln and Coventry.

Of perſon comely, but of genius mean,
Oppos'd by faction, and a faithleſs Queen:
For crimes of fav'rites haraſs'd and dethron'd,
Oppreſs'd by murd'rers, poor Caernarvon groan'd.

EDWARD II.

EDWARD of Caernarvon was twenty-three years of age when his father died. He recalled Pierce Gaveſton, whom his father had baniſhed, and by his will enjoined him not to aſſociate with; and then married Iſabella the daughter of the French King, and they were both crowned at Weſtminſter, Feb. 24, 1308. His ridiculous fondneſs for Gaveſton created innumerable diſputes. At length the Barons had recourſe to arms, and Gaveſton was beheaded. Mean while the Scots gained three victories over the Engliſh, and made themſelves maſters of every place in Scotland.

Edward now raiſed the two Spencers, father and ſon, to the ſummit of power; but they were baniſhed by the parliament. The King levied an army, took ſome caſtles from the Barons and recalled the Spencers. Edward afterwards invaded Scotland; but wanting proviſions, returned without ſtriking a blow; on which Bruce, King of Scotland, purſued him to York, deſtroyed 20,000 of the Engliſh, and then conſented to a peace.

The two Spencers incurred the general hatred; and Queen Iſabella fled to France with her ſon,

ſon, whence the nobility ſent for her, and ſhe with a numerous army marching towards London, the King fled into the Weſt, but ſhe ſtill purſuing him, he ſet ſail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales. Hugh Spencer the father being taken, was, without a trial, hanged and quartered, and the King himſelf was ſent priſoner to the Queen; and the young Spencer was hanged on a gallows fifty feet high.

The Queen now forgot every call of nature and duty, and was entirely governed by Mortimer, whom ſhe took to her bed. Edward was depoſed; and the ſon proclaimed King, they having obliged the old King to reſign in the 43d year of his age, and the 20th of his reign after which he was treated with the greateſt indignities, and at laſt cruelly mudered; for ſome aſſaſſins covered him with a feather-bed, and held him down, while others thruſt a horn-pipe up his body, through which they conveyed a red hot iron, burnt his bowels to prevent any external appearance of violence.

EDWARD III.

EDWARD of Windſor was crowned at the age of 14, on the 26th of January 1327. Though the parliament appointed a regency, the

XI. EDWARD *the* THIRD, *from* 1327 *to* 1377.

Triumphant EDWARD, the black Prince's ſire,
In peace and war we honour and admire:
France conquer'd, Scots ſubdu'd, preſerve his name;
But his laſt days eclips'd his former fame.

Queen and Roger Mortimer had the ſole rule. By their influence the young King renounced all his pretenſions to Scotland and gave his ſiſter in marriage to David Bruce, King of the Scots; but afterwards becoming ſenſible of his error, he cauſed the Queen his mother to be confined for life, and Mortimer Earl of March to be hanged at Tyburn: He then broke the truce with Scotland, and invaded that kingdom; won four battles in a ſhort time, and obliged King David to fly with his Queen into France, when he ſet up Edward Baliol in his room. Edward now laid claim to France; for Charles, his mother's brother, dying, Philip of Valoiſe had poſſeſſed himſelf of the kingdom, alledging the Salick law: but Edward aſſerted that the ſalick law in excluding females from the ſucceſſion, did not exclude their male iſſue, on which he grounded his titles. His firſt campaign paſſed without blood-ſhed; but he took the title of King of France, and quartered his arms with the *Flower de luce* adding the motto, *Dieu & mon droit*, or *God and my right*.

In his ſecond attempt, he defeated the French fleet, deſtroyed or took 370 of their ſhips, and 300,000 men; then beſieged Tournay, but being called home to oppoſe the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with King Philip. The next

campaign, he waſted all the country up to the walls of Paris, obtained the glorious battle of Creſly, which was won by the Prince of Wales, who was then only ſixteen. The French were defeated with incredible ſlaughter. The King of Bohemia alſo died in the field; when his ſtandard, on which were in gold, three Oſtriches feathers, with theſe words—*Ich dien*, that is, *I ſerve*, was brought to the Prince of Wales; who in memory of that victory, bore the Oſtrich feathers in his coronet with the ſame motto. In this battle the French loſt eleven Princes and 30,000 common ſoldiers, a greater number than the whole army of the conquerors, whoſe loſs was very conſiderable. When the victory was over, the King tenderly embracing the Prince, "My gallant ſon," ſaid he, "you have nobly acquitted yourſelf, and well "are you worthy to the kingdom." Six weeks after this, Edward's Queen defeated the Scots, and took King David priſoner. Theſe memorable battles were fought in 1346. Edward then laid ſiege to Calais, which he was obliged to reduce by famine and then returned to England. He then ſent over his ſon the Black Prince, who after taking ſeveral towns, totally routed the French army commanded by King John, who had ſucceeded Philip, & in this glo-

rious

rious battle, which was fought near Poictiers, took the King, many nobles, and a number of private men priſoners, though the French army was ſix times as numerous as the Engliſh.

There were at this time two Kings priſoner's in England: the French King who was lodged at the Savoy, which was then a Palace; and the King of Scotland, who was confined at Odiham in Hampſhire. They were both treated with great reſpect. The French King paid for his ranſom 500,000l. and a conſiderable extent of country; and the King of Scots was ranſomed for 100,000 marks. The French King afterwards returned to England, and kept his court at the palace of Savoy, where he died in 1363.

Edward after having ſettled the ſucceſſion, was taken ill, and died at Richmond in Surry, June 21, 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and the 51ſt of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter Abbey. Edward the black Prince has a monument in the Cathedral of Canterbury.'

The Prince inſtituted the order of the garter, which is ſaid to have had its riſe from the Counteſs of Saliſbury's dropping her garter at a ball, which the King taking up, obſerving her in confuſion, preſented it to her ſaying, HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE, *Evil to him who evil thinks*, when obſerving ſeveral of the Nobles ſmile, he added

added, *Many a man has laughed at the garter, who will think it a very great honour to wear ſuch a one.*

RICHARD II.

RICHARD of Bourdeaux, the ſon of Edward the Black Prince. was but eleven years of age when he was crowned at Weſtminſter, July 16. 1377. He was put under the tuition of his uncles, John Duke of Lancaſter, and Edmund Earl of Cambridge. In this reign a poll tax was paſſed, at 12d. per head, on all above the age of 16. This being levied with ſeverity, cauſed an inſurrection in Kent, and Eſſex, at the head of which were Wat Tyler and Jack Straw. Tyler refuſing to pay for his daughter, alledging ſhe was under the age ſpecified in the act, the collector uſed her with great indecency; on which Tyler beat out his brains with a hammer; then was ſoon joined by above 100,000 men who advanced to London, cut off the heads of all the Lords, Gentlemen, and Lawyers they met with, and plundered and deſtroyed many houſes, &c. The King himſelf was obliged to come to conference with Wat Tyler in Smithfield; when William Walworth, Mayor of London gave Tyler ſuch a blow on his head with his ſword, that he

XII. RICHARD *the* SECOND, *from* 1377 *to* 1398.

RICHARD from valliant ſire and grandſire ſprung
Prov'd weak perverſe and raſh, for he was young;
Yet brave, from rebels did defend his throne,
And when depoſed loſt not his life alone.

he fell dead at his feet; ſoon after which they diſperſed.

The King knighted Mr. Walworth, and ordained that the Mayor of London ſhould ever after bear the title of Lord, and that the dagger ſhould be added to the city arms, which was before a plain croſs.

The rebellion alſo extended into Norfolk and Suffolk, but it was ſoon ſuppreſſed; and the King ſent an army into Kent and Suſſex, to puniſh the ringleaders, and Jack Straw, with about 1500 of his followers, were hanged.

The King's fondneſs for his favourites, Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, whom he created Duke of Ireland, and Michael de la Pole, who was made Earl of Suffolk raiſed ſuch diſcontent, that the Barons twice had recourſe to arms, and at length obliged the King to take refuge in the Tower, and afterwards forced him to reſign the crown. Henry, Duke of Hereford, the ſon of John of Gaunt, was then declared King. Richard, was removed to Pontefract caſtle, where Sir Pierce de Exton with eight ruffians, in hopes of pleaſing Henry, ruſhed in upon him; when Richard reſolving to die like a man, wreſted a pole-axe from one of them, and laid four of them dead at his feet; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him gave him ſo violent a blow

on

on the head with a club, that he fell down ſenſeleſs, and thus died in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years.

King Henry IV. ordered his body to be removed to Weſtminſter-Abbey, and cauſed a monument to be erected to his memory, and to that of his Queen, in Edward the Confeſſor's chapel.

In the fourth year of his reign, a mortality almoſt depopulated the north of England: in his 6th year ſeveral churches were thrown down by an earthquake: in his 12th year there was a great plague and famine; and in this reign guns firſt came into uſe. It is alſo worthy of remark, that peaked, high-toed ſhoes, faſtened to the knees with ſilver chains, were in faſhion about the middle of this king's reign; and ſoon after ſide ſaddles were uſed, and long gowns worn, which were introduced by the Queen, a Bohemian Princeſs; for before that time the Engliſh women rode aſtride like the men.

HENRY IV.

HENRY IV. ſurnamed Bolingbroke, was raiſed to the throne as a reward for his paſt ſervices, though Edmund Mortimer was pre-

XIII. HENRY *the* IVth, *from* 1399 *to* 1419.

Lancaſtrian HENRY now the throne poſſeſs'd,
A Prince of no mean politics confeſs'd;
But courts the prieſts, their favour to engage;
Hence Lollards felt dire perſecution's rage.

preſumptive heir to the crown, as being deſcended from the daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third ſon of King Edward III. while Henry, Duke of Lancaſter, was the ſon of John of Gaunt, the younger brother of Lionel, and the fourth ſon of Edward III.

HENRY Duke of Lancaſter was proclaimed King, Sept 30, 1399, the very day on which Richard was depoſed.

The Dukes of Albemarle, Surry, and Exeter, the Earls Saliſbury and Glouceſter, the Biſhop of Carliſle, and Sir Thomas Blount, being Richard's friends, formed a conſpiracy in the year 1400, in order to aſſaſſinate Henry, and reſtore Richard to the throne; but being diſcovered, and their whole ſcheme fruſtrated, they aſſembled an army of 40,000 men, and ſet up Maudlin, a prieſt, whoſe perſon reſembled Richard's, to pretend that he was Richard himſelf, in this they alſo failed; moſt of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London; and this conſpiracy haſtened the death of the late King, who was ſoon after baſely murdered at Pontefract.

HENRY uſed great ſeverity towards the Lollards, or the followers of Wickliffe; and had William Sawtree, a clergyman, burnt in London as an heretic.

In

In 1402, Henry cauſed Roger Clarendon, the natural ſon of Edward the Black Prince and ſeveral others to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The ſame year he married Johanna of Navarre, widow of the Duke of Brittany.

About this time the Scots invaded England under the Earl of Douglas, but were defeated at Hallidown Hill by the Earl of Northumberland and his ſon Henry Hotſpur, with the loſs of about 10,000 men: and in this victory ſeveral Earls and many other officers were made priſoners; but the King ordering Northumberland to deliver up the priſoners into his hands, the Earl was ſo exaſperated, that he with Henry Piercy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, his ſon, and other Lords, agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March whom Glandour kept priſoner in Wales. The rebel army encamped near Shrewſbury, headed by Henry Hotſpur the Earls of Worceſter, and the Scotch Earl of Douglas; and the King marched directly thither, with 14,000 choice troops, headed by himſelf, the Prince of Wales, and the Scotch Earl of March; and on the 22d of July, at a place afterwards called Battle Field, the King obtained ſo complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among

among whom was the brave Hotſpur, who fell by the hands of the Prince of Wales.

In the year 1405 another conſpiracy was raiſed at the head of which was the Archbiſhop of York, the Earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray Earl Marſhal, and other noblemen, who aſſembled a large body of troops at York, and publiſhed a manifeſto, declaring the King a traitor, & that they were reſolved to place Mortimer the lawful heir on the throne. But this rebellion was ſoon ſuppreſſed by the good policy of Ralph Nevill, Earl of Weſtmoreland.

HENRY died in the Jeruſalem chamber at Weſtminſter, March 20, 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interred in the cathedral at Canterbury.

HENRY V.

THIS Prince was the eldeſt ſon of Henry IV. and was born at Monmouth in 1388. In his youth he was led into wild courſes; but in the midſt of all his extravagancies, he gave a ſingular proof of his moderation in ſuffering himſelf to be held in priſon, by order of the Lord Chief Juſtice whom he ſtruck in the execution of his office; & this circumſtance gave the people

All conqu'ring HENRY's parts and prowess rare,
The glorious field of Agincourt declare;
A vicious Prince, a virtuous King became:
But priests indulg'd kept England in a flame.

the greateſt hope that he would ſoon change his conduct, nor were they diſappointed. He ſucceeded to the throne at 25 years of age, & was crowned at Weſtminſter, April 9, 1413. The next year Commiſſioners were appointed for adjuſting the diſputes between the crowns of England and France; but Henry, ſeeing that nothing could be done by negotiation, reſolved to have recourſe to arms, when Henry Chichley Archbiſhop of Canterbury, adviſed him to lay claim to the whole kingdom of France, as the heir and ſucceſſor of Edward III. This war was approved by the parliament. He therefore demanded the crown of France as his right, upon which the Dauphin in contempt ſent him a preſent of a ton of tennis-balls, to let him know that he thought him fitter to play than for war: but Henry ſent him word, that he would ſoon repay him with ſuch balls as the ſtrongeſt gates of Paris ſhould not be rackets ſufficient to rebound.

Accordingly, in 1415, Henry embarked his army, amounting to 50,000 men about the beginning of Auguſt, on board 1500 tranſport-ſhips; and landed at Havre-de-Grace in Normandy on the 21ſt of Auguſt, and immediately laid ſiege to Harfleur, which ſurrendered in five weeks. Soon after which, the French having

aſſembled an army ſix times ſuperior to the King's, they challenged him to fight, & Henry accepted it, though the French army conſiſted of 150,000 men, and the Engliſh were reduced to 9000. The French therefore made rejoicings in their camp as if the Engliſh were already defeated, & even ſent to Henry to know what he would give for his ranſom: to which he replied, that a few hours would ſhew whoſe care it would be to make that proviſion. The Engliſh, though fatigued with their march, ſick of a flux, and almoſt ſtarved for want of food, were inſpired by the example of their brave King, and reſolved to conquer or die. In this ſituation Henry ſent David Gam, a Welſh captain, to reconnoitre the enemy, who bravely reported, that *there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken priſoners, and enow to run away.*

The King was encamped, October 25, 1415, on a plain near Agincourt, & having drawn up his ſmall army into two lines, (the firſt commanded by the Duke of York, and the ſecond by himſelf) he diſpoſed his few men to ſo much advantage, and behaved with ſuch extraordinary conduct and courage, that, by the bleſſing of divine Providence, whoſe aſſiſtance he publicly & ſolemnly implored before the action, by offering up prayers and exhorting his troops to

place

place all their truſt in God, he gained a complete victory after having been ſeveral times knocked down, & in the moſt imminent danger of loſing his life. The Engliſh killed upwards of 10,000 men, & took more priſoners than they had men in the army; but an alarm being given, that the French had plundered the Engliſh camp, and were returning to the fight, they were ordered to kill all their priſoners: an order which their own ſelf-preſervation rendered neceſſary; but the Engliſh ſoldiers had too much humanity to execute it: upon which a band of ruffians was employed in this maſſacre. The loſs of the Engliſh was no more than 400 men.

In 1417, the King, in order to carry on the war, mortgaged his crown for 100,000 marks, and part of his jewels for 10,000l. He landed at Beville in Normandy on the firſt of Auguſt, with 25,000 men, reduced Caen, &c. and the next year all Normandy fell again to the Engliſh. On the 25th of May 1420, a treaty was concluded at Troy between England & France: wherein it was agreed, that the crown of France ſhould deſcend to the King of England & his heirs, and that Henry ſhould marry Catherine the King of France's daughter; which being performed, he returned to England with his

Queen who was crowned the year following at Weſtminſter.

HENRY the next year advanced into France with 30,000 men; but while he was marching towards the river Loire, he was ſeized with a pleuritie fever, and was carried to Vicennes, where he ſent for his Brother, the Duke of Bedford, &c. and recommended Bedford to take upon him the adminiſtration of affairs in France, and that the Duke of Glouceſter might be Protector of England; & expired about two hours after, on the 31ſt of Auguſt, in the 35th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign. His body was carried to Calais, whence it was conveyed to England, and interred in Weſtminſter Abbey.

This King was brave, prudent, magnanimous and merciful; & though he died in the flower of his age, few Princes have left behind them ſuch ſhining proofs of every royal virtue.

This reign was filled with too many glorious actions to permit hiſtorians to record trifling circumſtances. It is worthy of remark, however, that on Candlemas-day, 1415, ſeven dolphins were ſeen playing in the river Thames, and four of them taken.

HENRY

HENRY VI.

HENRY of Windſor was only nine months old when his father died. This young Prince was proclaimed King of England and heir of France: and his uncles, John Duke of Bedford and Humphry Duke of Glouceſter, were reſolved to maintain what his father had procured for him. But as Charles VI. died at Paris on the 20th of October, 1421, the face of affairs was ſoon changed in France. Henry was proclaimed King at Paris, and the Dauphin at Poictiers, and ſeveral battles were fought in which the Engliſh had generally the advantage. The Earl of Saliſbury had inveſted Orleans, and when it was near being ſurrendered, a country girl, named Joan of Arc, who had been bred to the keeping of ſheep, undertook to deliver France from the Engliſh. She bore the arms & habit of a man, headed the French, and by her frequent & ſucceſsful ſallies, obliged the Engliſh to raiſe the ſiege; then purſued & harreſſed them, retook ſeveral places, attacked and defeated the brave Lord Talbot, & took him priſoner. At length, after a number of aſtoniſhing exploits, this great heroine was taken

XV. HENRY *the* SIXTH, *from* 1422 *to* 1461.

Meek, mild and merciful, but weak his ſway;
A King of France, the French would not obey;
Though brave his Queen, the Yorkiſts ſeiz'd his throne,
And his ſon's murder uſher'd in his own.

at Compeigne, and burnt for a witch by the Duke of Bedford's order.

At twelve years of age, Henry was carried to France, and crowned at Paris; but ſtill the war continued. The Duke of Burgundy, who had been in the Engliſh intereſt, joined with Charles, and Paris ſhook off its allegiance to Henry. The Duke of Bedford died about that time, ſo that a truce was concluded, when King Henry's marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the daughter to the titular King of Sicily, contributed to complete his misfortunes.

The Queen determined to ruin the Duke of Glouceſter, who was preſumptive heir to the crown. He was ſeized, and being cloſely confined, was the next day found dead in his bed, ſmothered by the Queen's order. Glouceſter's death occaſioned the Duke of York to lay claim to the crown.

This Prince was deſcended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third ſon to Edward III. & Henry was deſcended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter, the fourth ſon of the ſame Monarch; ſo that of primogeniture was plainly on the Duke's ſide.

This reign was full of domeſtic broils. The Duke of York's intereſt gained ground, & his arms were at firſt ſucceſsful againſt the King,

over

over whom he gained a complete victory at St. Alban's, took the King priſoner, and conducted him to London; and calling a parliament in Henry's name, was declared Protector of the kingdom.

The Queen raiſed an army in the North, and the Duke of York advanced to meet her: but his army being inconſiderable, he was defeated and ſlain at Wakefield, and his youngeſt ſon the Earl of Rutland, not above twelve years old, was cruelly killed by Lord Clifford; and the Earl of Saliſbury was beheaded.

Richard Plantagenet Duke of York, being thus dead, Edward Earl of March, his eldeſt ſon, took his title, & aſſerted his claim to the crown with an army of 23,000 men; and being victorious in ſeveral engagements, marched directly to London, obliged the Queen to return into the North, and was unanimouſly acknowledged King.

Thus ended the reign of Henry VI. which had laſted 38 years and a half.

EDWARD

EDWARD IV.

EDWARD came to the throne in the year 1461, and the 20th of his age; no ſooner was he proclaimed King, than he purſued the Queen into the North, & both armies meeting, a bloody battle was fought, in which 30,000 men were ſlain, & the King and Queen defeated; on which King Henry and Margaret fled with the young Prince to Edinburgh; but Henry returning into England ſoon after in diſguiſe, was ſeized and conducted on a wretched horſe, with his legs tied to the ſtirrups, to the Tower.

The Earl of Warwick had been the chief inſtrument in raiſing Edward to the throne, but that Prince employing him to negotiate a marriage for him in France, and in the mean time marrying Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Grey the Earl was ſo exaſperated that he raiſed a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the King's forces, & afterwards took his majeſty priſoner, and confined him in Middleham caſtle, from whence he eſcaped, & joining the Lord Haſtings in Lancaſhire returned to London; when another battle enſued, and Warwick's army being defeated he was obliged to fly into France: The Earl of Warwick landed ſoon after at Dartmouth

XVI. EDWARD *the* IVth. *from* 1461 *to* 1483.

Not unmoleſted, Yorkiſh Edward reign'd ;
Yet when victorious, he the throne maintain'd;
Revengeful, jealous, politic, but lewd,
His virtues were by luxury ſubdu'd.

mouth with a few troops, which he ſoon increaſed to 60,000 men; upon which Edward alſo raiſed a numerous army at Nottingham, but as his enemies were advancing, the cry of King Henry was raiſed in his camp, on which Edward fled into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, & he was again acknowledged the lawful King of England. But Edward afterwards returning to London, he was received with acclamations of joy: and Henry again was committed to the Tower.

Another battle was fought in Barnet, between King Edward and the Earl of Warwick, in which the great Earl of Warwick was ſlain, and 70,000 men. Some days after, the remainder of the Earl's army was aſſembled by the Lancaſtrians, & being joined by other forces, was headed by the Queen, when Edward defeated her at Tewkſbury, and took her priſoner with her ſon Prince Edward, the Duke of Somerſet, &c. The Prince being carried to Edward's camp, was aſked why he was ſo raſh as to enter the kingdom in arms, to which boldly replying that he came to recover his right, unjuſtly uſurped. Edward ſtruck him with his gauntlet on the mouth, when the Dukes of Glouceſter & Clarence, the Earl of Dorſet and the Lord Haſtings, ſtabbed him with their daggers, and thus maſſacred an amiable

amiable Prince, in the 18th year of his age, And ſoon after King Henry was murdered in the Tower by the Duke of Glouceſter, or as others ſay, died with grief in the 50th year of his age.

Queen Margaret, after being four years confined in the Tower, was ranſomed by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward cauſed his brother the Duke of Clarence, to be drowned in a butt of ſack. At length King Edward was ſeized with a fever, or according to others, with an apoplexy, and died at Weſtminſter on the 8th of April, 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign. King Edward had a curious monument in the new chapel in Windſor, founded by himſelf. Jane Shore whom Edward had from her huſband, was his favourite miſtreſs, for which ſhe was perſecuted in the reign of Richard III. and did public penance in St. Paul's church.

EDWARD V.

THE young Prince was at Ludlow when his father died, but being ſent for to London was trepanned by his uncle the Duke of Glouceſter, & lodged in the Biſhop of London's palace,

XVII. EDWARD *the* FIFTH,
Two Months and twelve Days of 1483.

Poor child! how ſhort his reign: domeſtic ſtrife
Untimely clos'd his own and brother's life;
He ſaw each faithful friend by fraud expire,
By RICHARD's fraud, who did to rule aſpire.

lace, where on the 4th of May 1484, he received the oaths of the principal nobility, and Glouceſter was made protector of the King & kingdom; he obliged the Queen to deliver up to him the Duke of York alſo, & then ſent them both to the Tower, under a pretence of preparing for the coronation; the Tower at that time being a royal palace, from which the proceſſion at coronations was uſually made to Weſtminſter. Mean while the Duke of Glouceſter, by the aſſiſtance of Stafford Duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw Lord Mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother had his two nephews, and even the late King, declared illegitimate, & himſelf acknowledged King of England, pretending at the ſame time to accept the crown with reluctance; though to produce this revolution, he had put to death the Lord Haſtings, who was ſtrongly attached to the young king.

Richard's firſt care was to diſpatch the young Prince; & Sir Robert Brakenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower, refuſing to comply with his cruel deſigns, he for one night only gave the command of the Tower to Sir James Tyrrel, and he procured two villains, who in the dead time of night entered the chamber were the Princes lay, and ſmothered them in bed. After which they were buried under the ſtair-caſe, where their

their bones were diſcovered 191 years afterwards, and by order of King Charles II. depoſited in Weſtminſter-Abbey, & a ſmall monument erected to their memory in Henry the VII's chapel.

The tyrant Richard, his tool Buckingham, and the other murderers were ſoon after overtaken by the arm of the Almighty.

RICHARD III.

RICHARD, the brother of King Edward IV. & the uncle and murderer of King Edward V. was proclaimed King, June 20, 1483, but was not crowned till July 6. He was now in the 32d year of his age, and as he had waded to the throne thro' injuſtice & violence, he endeavoured to gain the favour of the nation by popular laws. However, tho' he had promiſed the duchy of Hereford to the Duke of Buckingham, his chief inſtrument, he refuſed to perform that promiſe. At this Buckingham being exaſperated, left the court and entered into a confederacy with Henry Earl of Richmond, the

RICHARD, with deep hypocriſy endu'd
Ambitious, cruel, deſtitute of good;
Did public praiſe obtain by wholeſome laws,
And bravely fell, had virtue been the cauſe.

next heir to the crown of the Lancaſter race, who was ſtill in Brittany, where his mother informed him of what had happened in England and deſired he would ſpeedily land in Wales. Mean while the King ſuſpected a conſpiracy, & ſent for Buckingham to court, who refuſed to obey the ſummons, immediately collected his forces in Wales, & began to march towards the weſtern counties; but the Severn riſing with a great inundation, he was unable to paſs that river, & his army diſperſed and him only with a ſingle ſervant. In this melancholy ſituation he retired into Shropſhire, and ſheltered himſelf in the houſe of Ralph Banniſter, who had been his ſervant, and received many favours from him, but the King offering 1000l. reward for the taking of him, Banniſter villainouſly betrayed his maſter, who was beheaded at Shrewſbury without any regal proceſs.

The Earl of Richmond at length ſailed for England with 40 ſhips and 5000 men, but his fleet being diſperſed in a ſtorm, he was obliged to return. Upon this Richard cruelly ſacrificed all whom he ſuſpected to favour the Earl, concluded an Alliance with the Scots, & even corrupted the Duke of Brittany's treaſurer to deſtroy Richmond, but he ſaved himſelf by eſcaping into France.

As Henry had ſolemnly engaged to marry Elizabeth, the eldeſt daughter of Edward IV. Richard poiſoned his own wife, and then endeavoured without effect to prevail on the young Princeſs his niece to accept him for her huſband. Mean while Henry landed at Milford-haven with only 2000 men, immediately began his march towards Shrewſbury, and was joined by many of the nobility with all the forces they could raiſe. At length both armies met at Boſworth, the King having 13,000 men, and the Earl only 5000 The engagement was hot and doubtful, till the Lord Stanley, and his brother joined the Earl with freſh troops, when Richmond ſoon obtained the victory, in which King Richard ſoon loſt his life; and the crown being found in the field of battle, was placed on Henry's head. Richard's body was after the battle found entirely naked, covered with blood and dirt, and being thrown a-croſs a horſe, was conveyed to Leiceſter, and interred without the leaſt ceremony.

Thus fell Richard, on the 22d of Auguſt 1485, in the 34th year of his age, and the 3d of his reign. He was from his deformity ſurnamed Crook-back'd, and one of his arms was almoſt withered; He had a ſolid judgment, and was naturally brave.

RICHARD left only a natural ſon, who perceiving his father's fate, went to London, and put himſelf apprentice to a bricklayer, which buſineſs he continued to his death.

HENRY VII.

HENRY having defeated King Richard, was crowned at Weſtminſter on the 30th of October, 1485. and the next year married the Lady Elizabeth the eldeſt daughter of King Edward IV. by which means the two houſes of York and Lancaſter became united. However, the houſe of York procured one Lambert Simnel, a young ſtudent at Oxford, to pretend that he was the ſon of the Duke of Clarence, brother to King Edward IV. but after being crowned King in ſeveral places he was defeated and taken priſoner; yet the King ſpared his life, made him turnſpit in his kitchen, and afterwards his falconer.

Soon after, Margaret Ducheſs of Burgundy, a Princeſs of the houſe of York, introduced another pretender named Perkin Warbeck: he perſonated Richard Duke of York, Edward the Vth's brother, who was ſmothered with that prince in the Tower. This adventurer attempted to

The firſt of Tudor's race, of high renown,
'Spite of pretenders held the Engliſh crown;'
Subtle, profound, projects tended ſtill,
To fix his empire, and his coffers fill.

land in Kent with a few followers; but ſeveral of his adherents being executed, he fled to Ireland, and from thence to Scotland were he married the Earl of Huntley's daughter, and was twice ſent with an army into England by the King of Scotland; but, being both times defeated, was obliged to retire into Cornwall, where he raiſed an army with which he laid ſiege to Exeter; but the King's forces advancing, he fled again: when his wife being taken, a penſion was aſſigned her on account of her family & beauty. Perkin ſome time after ſurrendered himſelf, and was committed to the Tower, whence he made his eſcape; but was again taken, & endeavouring to corrupt his keepers, was at length hanged. Henry alſo, for his own ſecurity, cauſed the Earl of Warwick, the Duke of Clarence's ſon, whom Simnel had perſonated, and who had been confined in the Tower from his infancy, to be beheaded.

King Henry married his eldeſt ſon Arthur to Catherine, the daughter of Ferdinand King of Spain, & his daughter Margaret to James King of Scotland; when England being bleſſed with tranquillity, he was continually making uſe of new means to heap up riches for which he had no uſe: for the purpoſe he employed Sir Richard Empſon and Edmund Dudley, two law-

yers, who cauſed many wealthy perſons to be indicted for ſeveral crimes, and then obliged them to compound with the King; by which, and other illegal and ſhameful oppreſſions, the King amaſſed 1,800,000l. ſterling, which was more than double the value in our preſent money.

At length Henry grew ſo abſolute that no man durſt oppoſe him. But a little before his death, he ordered by his will, that his heirs ſhould reſtore what his officers and miniſters had unjuſtly taken from his ſubjects. He died at Richmond in Surry, April 22, 1509, in the 53d year of his age, and the 24th of his reign, and was interred in his own new chapel at Weſtminſter. Both the chapel and his monument are exquiſite pieces of workmanſhip.

HENRY was tall and ſtrait limbed, but ſlender, and had a handſome perſon. In the year 1417, he inſtituted the Star-Chamber, under the pretence that the channels of juſtice were corrupted. He promoted commerce, and ſent Sebaſtian Cabot to make new diſcoveries in America. In his 15th year was a plague, of which 30,000 died in London.

HENRY VIII.

HENRY VIII. was born at Greenwich, June 28, 1491, and ſucceeded his father Henry VII. April 22, 1509, in the 18th year of his age. He redreſſed the grievances of the former reign, put Empſon and Dudley to death, and wrote a book againſt Luther: on which the Pope conferred on him and his ſucceſſors the title of Defenders of the Faith. Soon after his acceſſion he paſſed over into France, and took Terouane, Tournay, and ſome other places. In the mean time King James of Scotland invaded England, but was defeated at the famous battle of Floddenfield, when King James, many Nobles, and 9000 common ſoldiers were ſlain.

In this reign Thomas Wolſey, the ſon of a butcher at Ipſwich, from being common prieſt was at length raiſed to the See of York, the dignity of a Cardinal, and the Poſt of Lord High Chancellor of England. His pride increaſed with his riches, and he cauſed the Duke of Buckingham to be beheaded for ſaying, "That "if the King died without heirs, he thought he "had a right to the throne;" but the real cauſe was his affronting the Cardinal by pouring wa-

ter

XX. HENRY *the* EIGHTH, *from* 1509 *to* 1547.

HENRY, of haughty mind and ſturdy mien,
With fury reign'd and often chang'd his Queen;
Diſown'd the Pope, yet kept us Papiſts ſtill,
And burn'd both ſides, who dar'd conteſt his will.

ter into his ſhoes, when he had the impudence to dip his hands in the baſon, while the Duke held it to the King to waſh. Cardinal Wolſey afterwards loſt the favour of the King, & was arreſted for high treaſon; this threw him into a fit of illneſs, of which he died. King Henry having conceived a paſſion for Anna Bullen, cauſed his Queen Catherine to be divorced, under pretence of her having been firſt married to his brother Arthur; and married Anna Bullen, Nov. 14, 1532, and ſhe was crowned the firſt of July following. By the former he had Mary, and by the latter Elizabeth. The Pope now threatening to excommunicate Henry, both he & the parliament were ſo exaſperated, that in 1534, they paſſed an act aboliſhing the papal authority in England. The Parliament now acknowledged the King ſupreme head of the church; refuſing to acknowledge which, Biſhop Fiſher, Sir Tho. Moor, and others, loſt their heads.

HENRY was then excommunicated, and his ſubjects abſolved from their allegiance; upon which the King ſuppreſſed their monaſteries; and ſeized their revenues, &c.

Queen Anna Bullen liv'd with the King only till ſhe had borne the Princeſs Elizabeth. Soon after

after which ſhe was cruelly beheaded, with ſome of her relations & domeſtics, on a charge of incontinency; of which there is the greateſt reaſon to believe her innocent. Henry then married Jane Seymour, who died in childbed of Prince Edward; when it being impoſſible to ſave both, he was aſked which ſhould be ſpared, the mother or the child; he replied, "That he could "eaſily procure another wife, but was not ſure "that he ſhould have another ſon." He next married Anne of Cleves, whom he ſoon divorced, and then beheaded, as he did Thomas Lord Cromwell, for promoting that match. His fifth wife Catherine Howard was like Anna Bullen beheaded for adultery; and Deerham, Mannock, and Culpepper, confeſſing that they had often lain with her, were all three beheaded. But Catherine Parr, his laſt wife, ſurvived him.

Henry died in the night between the 28th and 29th of January 1547, in the 57th year of his age, and 38th of his reign, and was interred at Windſor.

EDWARD

EDWARD VI.

EDWARD, the only ſon of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, aſcended the throne at nine years of age, when he was well ſkilled in the Latin & French tongues, and had acquired ſome knowledge of the Greek, Italian, and Spaniſh, and was committed to the care of Sixteen perſons, whom Henry had nominated Regents of the kingdom & governors of his ſon; the chief of whom was the Earl of Hertford, the King's uncle by the mother's ſide, who was ſoon after made Duke of Somerſet, and was Protector to the young King.

HENRY left the reformation very imperfect; but the Protector and his friends, aſſiſted by Archbiſhop Cranmer, &c. made uſe of this opportunity to improve it.

The young Queen of Scotland was now demanded in marriage for King Edward; but the ſame propoſal being made by France in behalf of the dauphin, ſhe was ſent into that Kingdom; on which the Duke of Somerſet invaded Scotland, routed the Scotch army at Muſſleburgh, and though the Duke's army amounted to only 18,000 men, & the Scots to 30,000, the Scots were defeated with the loſs of 14,000 killed, &

1500

XXI. EDWARD *the* SIXTH, *from* 1547 *to* 1553.

EDWARD was learn'd, meek, pious, juſt, and
ſage,
A man in council, tho' a child in age;
He laid the baſis of the church we boaſt,
But by his uncle's quarrels oft was croſt.

1500 priſoners: and, what is ſurpriſing, the Engliſh are ſaid to have loſt only 31 horſe-men and one foot ſoldier.

Private maſſes were now laid aſide; prayers were read in Engliſh, &c. However, Joan Bocker, embracing the opinions of the German Baptiſts, was burnt as a heretic; but the young King ſet his hand to the warrant with tears in his eyes telling Archbiſhop Cranmer, "That if "he did wrong, ſince it was in ſubmiſſion to his "authority, he ſhould anſwer to God for it."

Theſe alterations, however, occaſioned great diſturbance in different parts of the kingdom, which were at length ſuppreſſed, ſome by force of arms; and others by proclamation for a general pardon.

The Duke of Somerſet's great power raiſed him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother Thomas Lord Seymour; but articles of accuſation being exhibited againſt him, he was attainted in Parliament, and without an open trial condemned and beheaded. The Duke of Somerſet was ſome time after impeached, and charged with a deſign to ſeize the King and to impriſon the Earl of Warwick, which was both felony and treaſon, and though he was acquitted of treaſon, he was condemned for felony; and the young King being with great difficulty pre-

prevailed on to ſign the Sentence, he was executed ſome time after. The Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland, ſucceeded to the Earl of Somerſet's power, & at length (on the King's being taken ill of the meaſles) married the Lord Guildford Dudley, his fourth ſon, to the Lady Jane Grey, eldeſt daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, and perſuaded Edward to ſettle the crown on her, his ſiſters Mary and Elizabeth having been both declared illegitimate during the lifetime of their father; and the Prince, hoping to ſave the reformation from impending deſtruction, appointed her his ſucceſſor, & ſoon after died July 6, 1553, in the 16th year of his age and the 7th of his reign. He was interred in Weſtminſter-Abbey, but his monument was afterwards deſtroyed in the civil wars.

MARY I.

THE Duke of Northumberland kept the death of the young King for ſome time concealed; and when the Lady Jane, who was diſtinguiſhed by her beauty, virtue and great learning, was informed of the ſettlement which her couſin Edward had made of the crown, ſhe

When bloody MARY fill'd the Engliſh throne,
The good her brother did was ſoon undone,
Thro' herſhort reign tho' much too long was ſeen
A wretched bigot and a cruel Queen.

was with difficulty prevailed on to receive the offered enſigns of royalty, and was proclaimed at London with the uſual formalities. In the mean time the counties of Norfolk & Suffolk declared for Mary, and furniſhed her with troops, on her promiſing to leave religion in the ſame ſtate ſhe found it. The Duke of Northumberland marched from London with a ſmall army to oppoſe them; but being deſerted by his troops, he endeavoured to ſave himſelf by declaring for Mary; and in Cambridge Market place proclaimed her Queen. The Duke of Suffolk was now ordered by the Council to deliver up the Tower, & the Lady Jane Grey to quit the title of Queen, and reſign her pretenſions.

MARY was determined to ſacrifice to her ſafety or vengeance thoſe whom ſhe conſidered as her principal enemies. The Duke of Northumberland, with ſeveral other perſons of diſtinction, were tried for high treaſon and executed.

Queen Mary was crowned on the firſt of October 1553. She ſoon after married Philip II. King of Spain & openly declared for Popery. An inſurrection in Kent was raiſed by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who was beheaded; and the Duke of Suffolk, endeavouring to raiſe forces in Warwickſhire, not only the Duke but his daughter

daughter the Lady Jane Grey, and the Lord Guildford Dudley, his ſon-in-law, were beheaded.

Perſecution for religion was now carried to the moſt terrible height; Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, and Ferrar, with ſome hundreds of other perſons of different ranks & both ſexes were cruelly burnt alive. The Princeſs Elizabeth was cloſely watched, and obliged to diſſemble her religious ſentiments, and her anſwer to Gardiner, who put the dangerous queſtion concerning theſe words of Chriſt, *This is my body*, was full of caution, and a proof of her wit and good ſenſe.

Chriſt *was the word that ſpake it*;
He took the bread and brake it;
And what the word did make it,
That I believe, and take it.

The people of England were greatly diſguſted at the behaviour of Philip, who ſoon after his arrival declared war againſt France, & obtained a ſupply of 8000 Engliſh, by whoſe aſſiſtance the French were defeated at the battle of St. Quintin, but they ſoon after took Calais, which was the only ſtrong place the Engliſh had left in France. Philip had before been greatly diſguſted with the Queen for falſely imagining herſelf with child; & this, with the loſs of Calais, threw

her into an ill ſtate of health; and while the people ſaw nothing but cruelty in the council, poverty in the exchequer, pride in the court, diſſention at home, and contempt abroad, Mary, who had been long afflicted with the dropſy, died at St. James's, on the 17th of Nov. 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a reign of five years, four months, and eleven days; and was interred with great pomp, in King Henry VIIth's chapel at Weſtminſter.

ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH was proclaimed Queen the ſame day her ſiſter died. The Houſe of Commons addreſſing the Queen to marry, ſhe excuſed herſelf by ſaying, *that by the ceremony of her inauguration ſhe was married to her people.*

The Dauphin having married Mary Queen of Scotland, they in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, aſſumed the title of King and Queen of Scotland, England, and Ireland. But Mary becoming a widow, by the death of Francis II. King of France and Scotland, ſhe quitted the title of Queen of England, and returned to her own Kingdom. She then married her couſin Henry Stuart Lord Darnley; but being accuſed of many familiarities with Rizzio, her huſband became

The fam'd ELIZA's long and glorious reign,
Quell'd Romiſh ſuperſtition, humbled Spain:
Invaſions, plots, her genius ſoar'd above:
Bleſs'd in her ſervants and her ſubjects love.

became jealous, on which the Earl of Moreton and ſome others murdered Rizzio. Queen Mary now beſtowed all her favours on the Earl of Bothwell, who murdered the King ſoon after her delivery of a Prince who was afterwards James I. King of England, and a few months after the murder, that Earl married the Queen. Mary being now in danger of her life from the meaſure taken to deſtroy her, fled to England, where ſhe was impriſoned by Queen Elizabeth. The New-born Prince was immediately ſet on the throne of Scotland; and Mary, after eighteen years confinement, was beheaded for a conſpiracy carried on in her favour.

Queen Elizabeth aſſiſted to the utmoſt of her power the Proteſtants both of France and Holland. Philip II. King of Spain, exaſperated at the aſſiſtance Elizabeth his ſiſter-in-law had given the Dutch, though he had before ſought her in marriage, now formed the deſign of dethroning her, and prepared a prodigious fleet which was called the invincible Armada; but that fleet having entered the Channel, was bravely and ſucceſsfully attacked by Elizabeth's Admirals, on the 21ſt of July 1518; when, after a bloody engagement, the Engliſh Admirals convinced the ſeamen, that the dreadful apprehenſions they had entertained of the large Spaniſh

niſh ſhips were groundleſs. The Action was renewed on the 23d, when a ſharp engagement enſued off Portland. A running fight was continued the next day; and on the 25th another terrible rencounter happened off the iſle of Wight. The Spaniards then bore down to the coaſts of Flanders, and were ſtill purſued by the Engliſh; who in the night of the 28th ſent eight fire-ſhips among the Spaniſh fleet, which had anchored off Calais. The Spaniards then cut their cables & put to ſea, were purſued by the Engliſh, who took ſome of their ſhips, and drove the reſt on the coaſt of Zealand: but the wind chopping about, they eſcaped & returned home by ſailing round Scotland & Ireland; in which attempt ſeveral of their ſhips were taken by the Engliſh, and many of them wrecked by tempeſt on the coaſt of Ireland; very few of that Armada were able to get back into the ports of Spain. Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, Capt. Hawkins, and Captain Forbiſher, were the chief commanders. The Spaniards loſt 32 capital ſhips, and according to ſome accounts 81 veſſels large & ſmall, with 13,500 men. Elizabeth, in the medal ſhe ſtruck on this aſtoniſhing victory, piouſly aſcribed the Glory of all to God.

She the next year ſent a fleet of 100 ſail, under the command of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris, who plundered the Groyn; and, being joined by the Earl of Eſſex, took Peniche, ſeized 60 ſhips in the Tagus, and deſtroyed Vigo.

The Spaniards in 1596 were preparing to invade England again with a numerous fleet; upon which the Queen fitted out a fleet of 150 ſail, with 22 Dutch ſhips, under Howard, Eſſex, Raleigh and Vere; when the Spaniſh fleet which lay at Cadiz was defeated by Raleigh, who took four ſhips, and the reſt, which conſiſted of 13 men of war, 11 ſhips freighted for the Indies, and 33 others, were burnt by the Spaniſh Admiral himſelf, after his having offered in vain to ranſom them for two millions of ducats. The ſtores prepared againſt England were ſeized, the city plundered and burnt to the ground, and the loſs of the Spaniards was eſtimated at 20 millions of ducats. The Engliſh then burnt ſeveral villages along the coaſts, and returned to England with a prodigious booty.

The Earl of Eſſex, who was the Queen's favourite, was ſent as Deputy-Lieutenant to Ireland, with 2,000 men, to quell a rebellion raiſed

raiſed there by the Earl of Tyrone, who aſſumed the title of King. Eſſex, finding he had enemies near the Queen, ſolicited in vain to return to England: he then grew inactive, and the rebels gained ground. At length concluding a truce with Tyrone, he returned to England; but was ſoon after ſuſpended from all his employments, and afterwards attempting a change in the Miniſtry he was beheaded. Tyrone was at length defeated by Lord Mountjoy, and implored the Queen's mercy.

ELIZABETH died on the 24th of March 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and 45th of her reign. She was interred in Henry the VIIth's chapel.

Her ſtature was ſomewhat tall, & her limbs ſtrong. Her hair inclining to red, and her complexion fair. Her voice loud and ſhrill, yet ſhe ſung gracefully, and played well upon ſeveral inſtruments. She underſtood the Greek, Latin, French, Spaniſh and Dutch languages; ſpoke all but the laſt with great fluency, and encouraged them at the court.

JAMES

JAMES I.

ON the death of Queen Elizabeth, James VI. of Scotland was the next heir to the crown, he being deſcended from the eldeſt daughter of King Henry VII. and in him the crowns of England and Scotland were united. King James and his Queen were crowned at Weſtminſter, on the 25th of July, 1603.

In 1605 the gunpowder-plot, to deſtroy both the King and Parliament, was diſcovered by an anonymous letter, directed to Lord Monteagle. In a cellar under the Parliament houſe there were found 36 barrels of gunpowder, upon which were laid bars of iron, maſſy ſtones, &c. near to which was Guy Faux, one of the traitors, concealed with a dark lanthorn & three matches, who inſtantly confeſſed himſelf guilty; and he together with Sir Everard Digby, Cateſby, and ſeveral others were executed. Frederick, Elector Palatine, married the King's daughter Elizabeth, from which marriage the preſent Royal Family are deſcended; the Princeſs Sophia, King George the Firſt's mother, being the immediate iſſue of it. A little before this marriage, Prince Henry, the King's eldeſt ſon, and Prince of Wales died,

XXIV. JAMES *the* FIRST, *from* 1603 *to* 1628.

England's firſt Stuart, from the Scotian clime
Learn'd, but pedantic, peaceful to a crime;
His weak, yet arbitary acts, prepare
A ſcene of ills for his ſucceeding heir.

died in the 18th year of his age. It was generally believed he was poiſoned by Rocheſter the royal favourite.

The great Sir Walter Raleigh, the glory of his country, had been thrown into priſon for being one of the principals in a ridiculous plot, pretended to have been form'd in favour of King James's couſin-german, the Lady Arabella Stuart, before James's coronation, of which he was unjuſtly found guilty, without legal proof, and had been fourteen years confined in the Tower, when he was diſcharged, and ſent on an expedition in queſt of a gold mine, on the coaſt of Guianna; but returning without effecting the diſcovery, to pleaſe the count of Gondomer, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, he was ſhamefully recommitted to the Tower, and cruelly beheaded on his former ſentence.

The Dutch, who owed their very exiſtence, as a free people, to England, now deſpiſed James's power, and maſſacred the Engliſh at Amboyna; where they put the factory to death, and ſeized their effects.

King James's ſon Charles, Prince of Wales was married to the daughter of the French King Henry IV. and as ſhe was a Papiſt, ſhe eſtabliſhed that religion in the family of the Stuarts. King James died on the 27th of March 1625,

1625, in the 59th year of his age, and the 22d of his reign over England, and was buried in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Weſtminſter-Abbey.

King James was homely in perſon. He was, however, called the Solomon of his age, tho' he made the great duties of the King ſubſervient to the idle diſtinctions of the pedant. His ignorance of the Engliſh conſtitution, induced him to ſtrain the royal prerogative. He had, however, ſome virtues blended with his many vices, and he promoted the commerce of the kingdom.

In 1606, Virginia, which had been diſcovered by the unhappy Sir Walter Raleigh, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, was now planted with an Engliſh colony; ſoon after which New-England, and the Bermuda iſlands, were made Engliſh plantations.

CHARLES I.

KING Charles was born at Dumferling in Scotland on the 19th of November 1600, and ſucceeded his father, James I. in the 25th year of his age, but was not crowned till the 2d of

Unhappy Prince, his fate atones his fault,
Not weak, but obſtinate, and badly taught;
Our conſtitution hurt by lawleſs deeds,
Is quite ſuſpended when the Monarch bleeds.

of February, 1626. He was tinctured from his infancy with his father's principles, relating to the royal prerogative.

King Charles ſoon after his marriage entered into a war with Spain, and ſent a fleet againſt Cadiz, which proved unſucceſsful. However, reſolving to carry on the war, & the exchequer being exhauſted, he called a parliament, when ſupplies not being granted, he had recourſe to raiſing money without a parliament.

He then declared war againſt France, in which meeting with no ſucceſs, a peace was concluded between England, France, & Spain. After this the King called another parliament, and endeavoured to have the duty of tonnage and poundage (granted only for certain purpoſes) put entirely into his hands; but the parliament not complying, he diſſolved them. The revenues of the crown being now inſufficient for its ſupport, the Miniſters proceeded to the following rigorous methods of raiſing money, viz. They exacted the duty of tonnage and poundage: granted very numerous monopolies, extending even to old rags; a general loan was propoſed, & the people had ſoldiers billeted on them to compel payment, and ſeveral gentlemen were impriſoned for not ſubſcribing; and a tax was impoſed under pretence of protecting

fecting the coaſt from pirates. The diſſenters were ſeverely perſecuted, & the King obtained conſiderable ſums by heavy fines impoſed in the Star-Chamber.

After a long diſuſe of parliaments, Charles was obliged to recall one in 1640; they renewed the complaint of grievances; extorted a favourable declaration from the King, and even obliged him to make the parliament perpetual, unleſs they conſented to their diſſolution.

Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, and Laud Archbiſhop of Canterbury, being the King's principal adviſers, were both tried & beheaded, at ſome diſtance of time from each other.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which 150,000 Proteſtants were cruelly put to death in cold blood by the Papiſts, pretending that they acted by the King's authority. This therefore was charged to the King's account, though he ſolemnly diſclaimed it. In ſhort tumults between the King and Parliament now began to run high; but the firſt act of hoſtility was the King's appearing before Hull, and ſummoning Sir John Hotham, the Governer, to ſurrender, which he abſolutely refuſed.

King Charles then ſet up his ſtandard at Nottingham; and the Parliament raiſed forces and made the Earl of Eſſex their General; & ſoon after

after a battle was fought near Edge-hill, in which each party claimed the victory, & about 6000 men were killed on both ſides.

The next year the King's army was ſucceſsful in ſeveral battles in the Weſt of England; but his forces in the North were entirely routed at Marſton-moor, & the King engaging with Eſſex again at Newbury was obliged to retreat with conſiderable loſs.

In 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax was made General in Chief over the Parliament's forces, in the room of the Earl of Eſſex, & Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant General; when the two armies coming to an engagement, the Parliamentarians obtained a complete victory.

The next year the King made his eſcape to the Scotch army; but the Scotch after many debates, at laſt conſented to deliver up his Majeſty to the Parliament, in conſideration of the ſum of 400,000l. which was done at Newcaſtle, on the 30th of January, 1647, when he was eſcorted by Sir Thomas Fairfax, with 900 horſe, to Holmby-houſe in Northamptonſhire.

CROMWELL, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his military bravery, now ingratiated himſelf with the ſoldiery & at length became formidable to the Parliament itſelf. He introduc-

ed the officers, & ſome of the moſt ſenſible of the common ſoldiers into the Houſe of Commons, under the name of Agitators: & Cromwell acted as their King. They ſent to Holmby & took the King into their hands: & at length brought him to St James's, when an order was paſſed for bringing him to trial: accordingly a new Court was erected, called the High Court of Juſtice. The preſident was John Bradſhaw, Serjeant at law. The King being ſeveral times brought before the Court & diſowning its authority, ſentence was pronounced againſt this unhappy Monarch, on the 27th of January 1649, and on the 30th of the ſame month it was put in execution; when his head was ſevered from his body, on a public ſcaffold at Whitehall. The King was in the 49th year of his age and the 24th of his reign, when he was thus cut off. On the ſcaffold he declared himſelf a Proteſtant, & denied his having any ill deſigns on his people. This Monarch had many private virtues, and would probably have been a worthy Prince had it not been for the principles imbibed in his education, and the ill advice of his Miniſters.

His perſon was handſome, and he was of a healthy conſtitution of body.

The COMMONWEALTH *of* ENGLAND, *from* 1649 *to* 1653.

THE Parliament had no ſooner deſtroyed the King, than they declared the Royal power dangerous and voted the Houſe of Lords uſeleſs. They next appointed 40 members of the executive power, under the title of *The Council of State*.

CROMWELL was then ſent into Ireland to reduce the rebels; & in about nine months made great progreſs towards the reduction of that iſland; but the Scots revolting & calling over the young King, the Parliament ſent for Cromwell in haſte, and a battle was fought on the 3d of September 1650, at Worceſter, in which Cromwell defeated the King's army. His Majeſty on this fled to the houſe of William Penderel, at Boſcobel on the confines of Staffordſhire, where he lodged at night in a garret, & in the day ſat in a large oak in an adjacent wood; and at length eſcaped to Normandy.

CROMWELL afterwards defeated the Scots at Dunbar, took Edinburgh caſtle, and entirely reduced that kingdom.

CROMWELL, in 1653, ſet up a council of ſtate, who ſometime after gave him the title of *Lord Protector of England.*

The commonwealth was long at war with the Dutch, and in ſeveral battles at ſea the Engliſh diſtinguiſhed themſelves by an amazing intrepidity; to one of which the Engliſh with 106 ſhips beat the Dutch who had 120.

CROMWELL made peace with the Dutch & joined France and Spain. He obtained Dunkirk, took Jamaica, & in ſhort made his name univerſally formidable.

At length Cromwell died on the 3d of September 1651, about which time there was one of the moſt violent tempeſts ever known in England.

Soon after the Protector's death, the people turned their thoughts to the reſtoration of the Royal Authority and Family, which was brought about by General Monk; and King Charles II. was invited to England, and proclaimed King, May 8, 1660. On the 28th he landed at Dover, and on the 29th made his public entry through London on horſeback, attended by his two brothers James Duke of York, and Henry Duke of Glouceſter.

CHARLES

CHARLES II.

CHARLES II. was crowned on the 23d of April 1661; one of the firſt laws paſſed in his reign was an act of indemnity, excepting thoſe perſonally concerned in the death of his father, and a few others.

King Charles was married to Catharina, Infanta of Portugal; and in 1664, entered into a war with the Dutch, in which ſeveral naval battles were fought, and in particular a very bloody one on the 3d of June 1665; when Opdam, the Dutch Admiral, loſt his life, together with his ſhip, and 19 others were either taken, burnt, or ſunk; but in 1667 the Dutch ſailed up the Medway, & even burnt many of our ſhips at Chatham; ſoon after which a peace was concluded.

In 1678 one Titus Oats went into Spain, & having informed himſelf of a plot formed by the Pope, the King of France, the Duke of York, and others, applied to Sir Edmondbury Godfrey, a juſtice of peace in Weſtminſter, & repreſented to him, that they had formed a deſign to murder the King, & ſubvert the Proteſtant religion in England. On this Sir Ed-

XXVI. CHARLES *the* SECOND, *Nominally from* 1649, *actually from* 1660 *to* 1685.

Gay, ſprightly, heedleſs, affable and lewd,
In Charles's court few cares did long intrude,
But Popiſh influence ſtain'd his latter day,
With plots, and fines, and arbitrary ſway.

monſbury Godfrey took his diſpoſition; but was ſoon after murdered, and his body found in a ditch. Several perſons were tried and hanged for that murder.

The Preſbyterians were then charged with a plot by the Papiſts; & for this pretended conſpiracy, the brave Lord Ruſſel, Colonal Sidney and the Earl of Eſſex loſt their lives.

In 1667 Lord Chancellor Hyde, whoſe daughter had been married to the Duke of York was diſgraced and went to France, where he wrote his hiſtory of the rebellion. Though the Duke of York was a bigoted papiſt, yet that was made ſo great a ſecret, that the people were ſeverely fined for mentioning it. The King ſeemed to eſpouſe the intereſt of France more than his own; & even ſuffered Louis XIV. to be ſupplied with Britiſh timber for building ſhips, and ſelling Dunkirk, which Cromwell had procured for England, employed the purchaſe-money in his pleaſures.

King Charles died on the 6th of February 1685, in the 55th year of his age, after reigning 24 years, 8 months, and nine days, and was buried in Weſtminſter-Abbey.

This King had a ſwarthy complexion, and diſagreeable countenance; but was tall, & admired

mited for his great affability and eaſineſs of acceſs.

In this reign Milton wrote his Paradiſe Loſt and Butler his Hudibras. Waller, Cowley, Dryden, and Roſcommon alſo did honour to the nation by their writings.

In 1665 a plague carried off in London 70 or 80,000 perſons. In 1666 was the dreadful fire, which burnt above, 13,000 houſes & 90 churches. In this reign a perſon whoſe name was Blood, ſtole the crown, ſceptre, and regalia, out of the Tower, but was diſcovered & taken. In 1685, there was ſo ſevere a froſt from the middle of November to the 5th of February, that hackney coaches plied on the Thames.

JAMES II.

JAMES Duke of York was proclaimed King on the 6th of February 1685 without any great marks of joy being diſcovered. However in the Private Council he made a ſpeech, promiſing to preſerve the government both of the church and ſtate; yet he went publicly to maſs two days after his acceſſion.

The

XXVII. JAMES *the* SECOND, *from* 1685 *to* 1688.

Blinded with zeal, this furious Popiſh King,
Rome's yoke to England ſought again to bring;
He whilſt he reign'd, uſurp'd a lawleſs ſway,
Till William came and open'd freedom's day.

The coronation of the King and Queen was ſolemnized on the 3d of April. Titus Oats, the diſcoverer of the popiſh plot in the late reign, was now puniſhed with exceſſive ſeverity, tho' he proteſted the veracity of his teſtimony. Mr. Dangerfield and Mr. Richard Baxter alſo received ſevere treatment; the former for diſcovering a pretended plot, and the latter for reflecting on the Prelates.

The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorſetſhire with only 83 followers, on the 11th of June, and immediately publiſhed a declaration: that his ſole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Proteſtant religion, & to deliver the nation from the uſurpation & tyranny of James Duke of York, and that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. But his attempt did not meet with his deſired ſucceſs; he was taken priſoner, and beheaded on Tower hill, on July 15, 1685.

Thoſe who had eſpouſed his cauſe, were now butchered by military execution under General Kirk, or barbarouſly executed by a form of law under judge Jefferies.

In ſhort, about 600 perſons were hanged by Jefferies, and the ſteeples, tower gates, and roads, were ſtuck with the heads and limbs of thoſe who had been the Duke's adherents.

Several arbitrary & ſcandalous proceedings were carried on againſt the proteſtants at the inſtance of the King.

Mean while the Queen was ſaid to be delivered of a Prince on the 10th of June, 1688, though ſuch meaſures were taken, as raiſed a ſuſpicion of its being a deſign to impoſe an heir upon the kingdom. This event alienated the minds of the Princeſſes Mary and Anne, the King's own undiſputed children by Lady Anne Hyde.

The Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of the United Provinces, had married Mary, King James's eldeſt daughter, and was himſelf the ſon of that King's eldeſt ſiſter; he naturally attracted the regard of the people of England, who applied to him for deliverance from the oppreſſion and tyranny of James; accordingly the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay on the 5th of November 1688, and was joyfully received by the people.

His majeſty now appointed commiſſioners to treat with the Prince of Orange about terms of accomodation. The Prince made his propoſals with moderation; but James choſe to deſert his kingdom rather than retract what he had done in favour of the popiſh religion; & therefore

fore went diſguiſed, and embarked in a veſſel near Feverſham in Kent, where he was ſtopped by ſome fiſhermen and brought back to London; however, he fled a ſecond time, and eſcaped into France, in December 1688. He afterwards made a fruitleſs attempt upon Ireland; and ſpent the laſt twelve years of his life at St. Germains, where Lewis XIV. allowed him a penſion of about 50,000l. ſterling, per annum& his daughter Mary 4000l. ſterling, which he received ſecretly. At length, he died there in 1701, in the 68th year of his age.

WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.

UPON King James's departure, the Lords & Commons agreed, after much diſpute, that he had abdicated the throne. Then the Princeſs Mary and the Prince of Orange were proclaimed King & Queen on the 13th of February 1689, & crowned on the 11th of April following.

An attempt was made to ſecure Scotland for King James; but on the 26th of May 1689, the two armies met at Killickcrany, in the ſhire of Perth,

XXVIII. WILLIAM *the* THIRD, *and* MARY *the* SECOND, *from* 1688 *to* 1702.

WILLIAM the hero, with MARY mild,
He James's nephew, she his eldest child)
Fix'd freedom and the church, reform'd the coin;
Oppos'd the French, & settled Brunswick's line.

Perth, when Lieutenant General Mackay, who commanded for King William obtained a victory; after which the whole iſland of Great Britain ſubmitted to King William.

In Ireland, Tyrconnel had diſarmed the Proteſtants in great part of the kingdom, and formed an army of Papiſts, amounting to 30,000 foot and 8000 horſe, while the Proteſtants in the North took up arms for King William. Mean while James made his public entry into Dublin, and ſoon after put himſelf at the head of 20,000 men, and was twice reinforced by the French, with 5000 men each time. James's forces were defeated in many battles; and at length King William arriving in perſon, he gained a complete victory over James at the battle of the Boyne, & thereby eſtabliſhed himſelf on the throne of Ireland. James then left Dublin, and going to Waterford, took ſhipping for France.

Soon after the Battle of Boyne, King William returned to England; but another battle was fought June 30, 1691, at Aughrim, between the Engliſh, commanded by General Ginkle, and the Iriſh aſſiſted by the French; when the Engliſh gained a complete victory. After which Galway ſurrendered & Limeric capitulated, and thus an end was put to the war in Ireland.

A bou

About this time King William formed a grand alliance againſt Lewis XIV. & headed the allied armies in ſeveral battles; at length the French made overtures of peace, and the treaty was concluded at Ryſwick in 1697.

Whilſt the King was thus engaged abroad his illuſtrious Queen died December 28, 1694, and was greatly lamented on account of her uncommon goodneſs.

Several conſpiracies were formed in favour of James during King William's reign, the moſt remarkable of which was the aſſaſſination plot for murdering the Prince in his coach; for which Sir John Fenwick, Sir John Freind, Sir William Perkins, and others were executed.

King William was thrown from his horſe, by which his collar-bone was diſlocated, and he died on the 8th of March, 1702, in the 14th year of his reign, and 52d of his age, and was interred next his Queen in Henry the VIIth's chapel.

King William was of a brown complexion, had a Roman noſe & a piercing eye; was of a middle ſtature, & round ſhouldered. One of the laſt acts of his life was ſigning the bill for ſettling the crown on the illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover, in caſe Princeſs Anne of Denmark,

who

who had a little before buried the Duke of Glouceſter, died without iſſue.

ANNE.

THE crown devolved to the Princeſs Anne, daughter of James II by Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of Lord Chancellor Clarendon. This Princeſs was born at St. James's, Feb. 16, 1665; was married to George Prince of Denmark, July 28, 1683; and was crowned April 23, 1702.

War was declared againſt France and Spain on the 4th of May, by the Queen, Emperor and the States-General; but the actions were ſo numerous, that it would be impoſſible, in the narrow compaſs we are here confined to, to mention particularly every engagement.

The E. of Marlborough in 1702 led to the field the army of the allies, conſiſting of 53,000 foot and 2700 horſe. He took the firſt campaign Venlo, Ruremond, Stephenſweart and Liege.

On the 2d of Auguſt, 1704, Marlborough gained a moſt glorious victory at Blenheim, in which the French had 12,000 men killed, and 14,000 made priſoners, among whom was Marſhal Tallard, ſeven Generals, and 1200 other officers

Ten years of glory brighten'd ANNA's reign,
While Marlbro's arms did victory maintain:
For should hard cenſure ſhade her cloſing ſcene
For tho' miſled, well-meaning was the Queen

officers; and near 300 ſquadrons were drowned in the Danube.

Sir George Rook took Gibralter, after a ſiege of two days, on July 4, 1704. Next year Marlborough with 74,000 defeated the French and Bavarians conſiſting of 75,960.

The ſame year the brave Earl of Peterborough took Barcelona; and next raiſed the ſiege of St. Mattheo, and with 1200 men obliged 7000 to fly, took Norledro, and ſeized Valencia.

On May 12, 1706, Marlborough, with 59,180 men, attacked the French and Bavarians 61,120 ſtrong, and in leſs than two hours, put their whole army to flight. The enemy had 8000 killed, 4000 wounded, and 6000 taken priſoners.

Marlborough and Prince Eugene, July 11, 1708. defeated the whole French army at Oudenard. The French had 4000 killed and wounded, and 7000 taken priſoners; while the confederates had only 820 men killed. The Duke ſoon after took Liſle, relieved Bruſſels, and obliged Ghent to ſurrender. During theſe tranſactions, Major General Stanhope, with 3000 men, landed at Minorca, and took fort St. Philip in three days; and the whole iſland

was

was conquered in three weeks with the loſs of only 40 men.

In 1711, the Duke took Bouchain, and made the garriſon priſoners of war; and this was the laſt ſervice performed in the field by the immortal Duke of Marlborough, who in the courſe of ten victorious campaigns, had the honour of receiving ten times the thanks of both houſes of parliament; and was at laſt, on the change of Miniſtry, diſmiſſed from all his employments. Theſe wars were at length concluded by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Parties now ran very high, and theſe animoſities, it is thought, ſhortened the days of the Queen, who died at Kenſington, Auguſt 1, 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign, having loſt her royal conſort Prince George about ſix years before. She was privately interred in King Henry the VIIth's chapel.

In this reign the kingdoms of England and Scotland were united.

Inur'd alike to council and the field,
Before his ſway ſaw oppoſition yield;
In wiſdom and the laws he put his truſt,
Was cautious, ſteady, fortunate and juſt.

GEORGE I.

ON the death of Queen Anne, the Privy Council gave orders that the Elector of Hanover ſhould be proclaimed King; and he was crowned on the 11th of October following. His Majeſty immediately made ſeveral changes in the Miniſtry; and the Duke of Marlborough was reſtored to his former poſts.

Mean while the Pretender aſſerted his claim to the crown, and it ſoon appeared that James the ſon of King James II. had a conſiderable party in England. John Erſkin, Earl of Mar, with ſeveral other noblemen & gentlemen, aſſembled at the Brae of Mar, and on September 16, proclaimed the Pretender King, and their numbers ſoon increaſed to 12,000 men. The Earl of Derwentwater, and Mr. Forſter aſſembled their friends in Northumberland, & Forſter declared the pretender King, at Warkworth. Mean while Lord Viſcount Kenmure headed ſome noblemen & others in the weſt of Scotland, & at the ſame time declared the Pretender King at Moffat, in Annandale. Kenmure joined Forſter on the borders of Scotland.

On the 22d of December, the Pretender landed at Peterhead, and, was conducted to Fetteroſſe, where he was proclaimed King. The Duke of Argyle, in January 1716, obliged the rebels to abandon Perth; from whence they returned to Montroſe, where the Pretender privately made his eſcape to France; upon which General Gordon led them into the mountains, where they were diſperſed.

Of the great numbers who were ſentenced to die for this rebellion, none were executed except the Lords Derwentwater and Kenmure, and a ſmall number of the lower rank.

In 1718 war was declared againſt Spain, when Sir Geo. Byng was ſent with 28 ſhips into the Mediterranean; and on July 31, he defeated the Spaniſh Admiral, took ten men of war, and burnt four, and even made the Admiral and Rear Admiral priſoners. After which he deſtroyed ſeven Spaniſh ſhips of war, and great quantities of naval ſtores on the coaſt of Sicily and Biſcay.

In December, a Spaniſh ſquadron, with 10,000 regular troops under the Duke of Ormond, was ſent to invade England; but were diſperſed by a violent ſtorm. However, the Marquis of Tullybardine, and the Earl of Seaforth and Mariſchal, with 307 Spaniſh ſoldiers, landed

landed in Scotland, and were joined by 2000 Highlanders: but Gen. Wightman with 1200 men, on the 10th of June entirely defeated them.

Lord Cobham then made a deſcent upon Spain, and took Vigo.

In 1727 his Majeſty ſet out for his German dominions; but was taken ill in his coach on the road to Hanover, and died two days after at his brother's palace at Oſnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was interred at Hanover.

King George I. was of a moderate ſtature; his features were regular and manly, and his countenance grave and majeſtic. He was an able and experienced General, and a conſummate politician.

XXXI. GEORGE *the* II. *from* 1727 *to* 1760.

In iſſue, happieſt of the kingly ſtrain;
Triumphant o'er rebellion and its train:
He ſilenc'd faction, humbled France's pride,
He liv'd belov'd and crown'd with glory di'd.

GEORGE II.

AS his late Majeſty died abroad, his death was not known till the 14th of June, 1727, and his Majeſty King George II. was, the next morning proclaimed King, and he with his Queen were crowned at Weſtminſter on the 11th of October.

His Majeſty found the nation engaged in a war with the Spaniards; but in 1729, a peace was concluded at Seville between Great Britain, France, and Spain.

On October 29, 1739, war was declared by England againſt Spain; and on November 22, 1743, Admiral Vernon, with ſix ſhips, took Porto Bello. The next year he was ſent with 29 ſhips of the line, with 10,000 ſoldiers, under the command of General Wentworth, to attack Carthagena; but tho' he deſtroyed ſix Spaniſh ſhips of the line, and ſeven galleons, the attempt miſcarried thro' a diſagreement between the Admiral and the General.

Commodore Anſon ſailed from England with five men of war in 1740, and after having ſuffered the moſt dreadful diſtreſſes, ſurpriſed and took Paita on the 12th of November, 1704, and

and having plundered and burnt the town, and ſeized ſeveral Spaniſh ſhips, he on his return, by the way of the Eaſt-Indies, took the Manilla Galleon, loaded with treaſure. He arrived in England in 1744, with the riches he had acquired from the Spaniards, amounting to about 400,000l.

His late majeſty George I. powerfully ſupported the Queen of Hungary's ſucceſſion to the hereditary dominions of her father the Emperor Charles VI. and at length England and France, under the name of auxiliaries to the contending parties, became principals in the war: when his Britannic Majeſty not only furniſhed 16,000 Britiſh troops, but in perſon headed the allied army in Germany, accompanied by the Duke of Cumberland; and a battle was fought at Dettingen, June 16, 1743, when the King of Great-Britain had the glory of the field. The Duke of Cumberland was wounded in the action.

In 1744, war was declared againſt France: and in 1745, the people of New England, aſſiſted by ten men of war, under Commodore Warren, took Cape Breton, with the loſs of only 100 men; but were afterwards obliged to part with it for Madraſs.

On the 14th of July the young Pretender ſailed to Scotland in a ſmall frigate, & landed

there on the 27th of July. He ſoon obtained conſiderable force, and proceeding through ſeveral parts of Scotland, had his father proclaimed King, while he himſelf aſſumed the title of Prince-Regent. He took ſeveral places, and gained ſome advantages over the King's forces ſent againſt him; but at length the Duke of Cumberland went to Edinburgh, and took the command of the army, & on the 15th of April came to an engagement near Culloden-houſe, & obtained a complete victory, in which about 1400 of the rebels were killed, wounded and taken priſoners, though the royal had only 60 men killed, and 180 wounded. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmernio, Lord Lovat, and Mr. Radcliffe, brother to the late Earl of Derwentwater, were afterwards beheaded for this rebellion on Tower-Hill.

Hoſtilities at length ceaſed in Flanders, & a general peace was proclaimed in London, Feb. 2, 1749. The French, however, ſoon broke the peace by erecting forts on the back of the Britiſh ſettlements in America, & in 1754, attempted to ſeize Nova Scotia: theſe depredations brought on ſeveral engagements, which were attended with various ſucceſs.

Mean while the French landed 17,000 men in

in Minorca, which was defeated by Gen. Blakeney. His majeſty declared war againſt France on the 15th of May, 1756, and ſent Admiral Byng with a ſtrong fleet to the relief of Minorca; but he neglecting to fulfil his inſtructions, the place was loſt, and he was tried and ſhot at Portſmouth.

During theſe tranſactions Col. Clive diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the Eaſt-Indies, and all the towns and factories belonging to the French on the Coaſt of Coromandel, except only Pondicherry, were in a few years taken by the Engliſh.

In 1758 the Duke of Marlborough landing near St. Maloes in France, burnt many ſhips, with a great quantity of naval ſtores. Lieut. General Bligh, & Capt. (now Lord) Howe took Clerburgh and demoliſhed its fortifications. Soon after Capt. Marſh took Senegal, & Com. Keppel took the iſland of Goree, on the coaſt of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton was again taken by General Amherſt and Admiral Boſcawen. Soon after fort Frontenoc ſurrendered to Lieut. Gen. Bradſtreet, and fort du Queſne to Gen. Forbes.

On May 1, 1759, the valuable iſland of Guadaloupe ſurrendered to the Engliſh, & the

ſame

ſame month Marigalante, Santos, & Deſeada, became ſubject to England. And the ſame year, the French loſt Quebec, the capital of Canada.

1760, Thurot landing with three frigates in the bay of Carrickfergus, they were all taken by Capt. Elliot, and on Sept. 8, Montreal, and all Canada ſubmitted to the Engliſh. But after theſe glorious conqueſts his Majeſty King George II. to the inexpreſſible grief of his people, died at Kenſington, on the 25th of October, in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign.

GEORGE III.

His Contemporaries.

Pope		King of France	
Pius VI.	1776	*Lewis* XVI.	1774
Emperor		Empreſs of Ruſſia,	
Joſeph II.	1765	*Catherine* II.	1762.

GEORGE the Third, who was the eldeſt ſon of Frederic Prince of Wales, ſucceeded his grandfather, and was proclaimed, with the uſual ceremonies, on the 26th of October 1760. He was born on the 4th of June, 1738.

The beginning of his Majeſty's reign was accompanied with great events, the war being carried on with ſucceſs in every quarter of the world.

On the 8th of September, his Majeſty was married, at the Royal Chapel at St. James's to her Serene Highneſs the Princeſs Charlotte, of Mecklenburgh Strelitz; and on the 22d of September, their Majeſties were crowned in the Abbey-church of Weſtminſter.

Born in this iſle, let GEORGE the ſceptre ſway
And Engliſhmen their native Prince obey:
May he preſerve their Liberties and Laws,
And be the foremoſt in Religion's cauſe.

In the year 1762, war was declared againſt Spain. This year was glorious to the Britiſh arms, which were triumphant in all quarters of the globe. The heroes of this year were the Admirals Rodney and Pocock, General Monckton the Earl of Albemarle, and others.

Theſe ſucceſſes made our enemies heartily weary of the war, in conſequence of which a peace was concluded at Fontainbleau, in February, 1763.

For ſome few years after the peace, the hiſtory of Great Britain is confined almoſt wholly to domeſtic tranſactions. In 1763, the Duke of York ſet out on his travels for Italy, & in the following year the Princeſs Auguſta, was married to the hereditary Prince of Brunſwick.

In the courſe of the year 1768, Mr. Wilkes, who had long reſided abroad, returned, & offered himſelf as a candidate to repreſent the city of London, though his outlawry had never been repealed. He loſt his election: but he immediately ſtood for Middleſex, where he was choſen by a great majority. He ſoon after ſurrendered himſelf, and was committed to the King's Bench priſon; in conſequence of which ſeveral riots happened in St George's Fields, and ſome perſons loſt their lives.

Mr.

Mr. Wilkes was the ſame year expelled the Houſe of Commons, fined one thouſand pounds, and impriſoned twenty-two months, for publiſhing No. 45. of the North Briton, the Eſſay on Woman, and ſome other papers In 1771, his impriſonment expired, when he was choſen one of the ſheriffs for London, elected an alderman, had his debts paid, amounting to between, 20 and 30 thouſand pounds. then elected lord mayor, and at laſt chamberlain of the city of London.

We muſt paſs over the other domeſtic diſturbances of this year, in order to record thoſe of a more ſerious nature in North America, wherein 1771, a rebellion broke out, occaſioned by new duties being laid on paper, glaſs, tea, and other articles. The mother country repealed all theſe duties, except that on tea; & when ſome ſhips arrived at Boſton, laden with the article, the Boſtonians emptied their cargoes into the ſea. Theſe proceedings enraging the Engliſh government, an act was paſſed here for ſhutting up the port of Boſton; and the Americans, on their ſide, in conſequence declared themſelves independant of Great Britain.

In 1775, the Britiſh and American troops came to blows at Concord in New England; &

ſeveral ſkirmiſhes afterwards enſued, in which many were killed on both ſides, without producing any thing deciſive. The Americans began to take up arms in every quarter, and they aſſumed the title of *The United States of America.* They ſoon after took the garriſons of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, where they found great quantities of military ſtores.

In the year 1778. the Britiſh government offered terms of accommodation, which the Americans refuſed with diſdain. The war was therefore continued with mutual animoſity, & the Americans loſt all Georgia. In the courſe of this year, the French entered into an alliance with the thirteen united Provinces; & ſoon after, Admiral Keppel engaged the French fleet, commanded by Count D'Orvilliers. Neither ſide got the victory in this action, & the French were ſuffered to get off, owing to the miſunderſtanding between the Admirals Keppel and Palliſer.

In 1779, the Spaniards joined the French, took New Orleans on the Miſſiſſippi, and laid ſiege to Gibralter.

The year 1780, will be ever memorable for one of the moſt alarming riots that ever happened in the city of London. The King's Bench priſon, New Bridewell, & Fleet priſon were al l

all burnt, & the city repreſented a town taken by ſtorm by the hands of unmerciful enemies. At length troops poured into London from all quarters, when tranquillity was immediately reſtored; no ſmall numbers of the rioters were ſhot, ſome burnt in the flames they themſelves kindled, and many were afterwards tried and executed

In January, 1782, Admiral Rodney came up with the French fleet, when an engagement took place, and the Ville de Paris, a ſhip of 100 guns, was taken, with two of 74, and one of 64 guns. A ſeventy-four gun ſhip blew up by accident ſoon after ſhe was in our poſſeſſion, and another of 74 ſunk during the engagement. A few days after, two more of the ſame fleet, of 64 guns, were captured. By this victory, the deſign againſt Jamaica was fruſtrated, and Admiral Rodney, on his return, was created a peer. In September the ſiege of Gibralter ended in diſappointment, and the deſtruction of almoſt all the ſhips and moſt of the Aſſailants in them.

In 1783, a period was put to this moſt calamitous war, in which Great Britain loſt the beſt part of her American colonies, beſides many thouſand valuable lives, and expended or ſquandered nearly 150 millions of money.

On the 20th of September, 1784, the Society of Antiquarians in London, on receiving information, that the remains of King Alfred the Great, who died in the year 901, were depoſited in the pariſh church of Driffield, about 20 miles from Hull, in Yorkſhire, deputed two of that learned body (accompanied by ſome other gentlemen) to take up and examine the ſame; accordingly, the above gentlemen with proper aſſiſtants entered the church for that purpoſe, to be directed to the identical ſpot by a ſecret hiſtory; after digging ſome time they found a ſtone coffin, and, on opening the ſame, diſcovered the entire ſkeleton of that great and pious prince, together with moſt part of his ſteel armour, the remainder of which had probably been corroded by ruſt, and length of time. In the hiſtory above alluded to, it appears, that King Alfred being wounded in the battle of Stamford Briggs, returned to Driffield, where he languiſhed twenty days, and then expired, and was interred in the pariſh church thereof.

In the year 1786 an act was paſſed for creating a new fund to leſſen the national debt, by appropriating *one million* annually to the diſcharge of ſo much of the principal of the ſaid debt,

debt, by purchaſing in the cheapeſt funds 250,000l. quarterly; and the commiſſioners appointed to carry the act into execution began their operations accordingly on the 5th of the following July.

The year 1786 was remarkable for the death of a number of perſons of high rank, and of diſtinguiſhed eminence: particularly her royal highneſs the princeſs Amelia, aunt to his Majeſty, and the laſt of the iſſue of George II. Her highneſs died on the 31ſt of October, in the 77th year of her age, to the irreparable loſs of the poor, to whom ſhe was a moſt liberal benefactreſs.

This year is alſo remarkable for the attempt made on his Majeſty's life, by Margaret Nicholſon, who as he was alighting from his carriage, at the gate of St. James's Palace; ſhe, under pretence of preſenting a memorial, ſuddenly drew a Knife ſhe had concealed, and ſtruck at his Majeſty's breaſt; fortunately a button prevented the point from injuring, and before a ſecond blow could be ſtruck, ſhe was ſeized and diſarmed. She was found to be inſane, & confined in Bethlehem Hoſpital.

Nothing very material occurred until No-

vember 1789, when his Majeſty was afflicted with a ſevere and dangerous indiſpoſition, which rendered him incapable of attending to his public functions. After many debates concerning ſupplying the deficiency of the Royal Authority, ſeveral reſolutions were entered into, the tenure of which was, that the Prince of Wales ſhould be inveſted with the Royal Authority, under the Title of Regent, which with ſtated reſtrictions he ſhould hold until the recovery of his Majeſty. But no ſooner had the Committee of the Houſe of Commons, acquainted the Prince of Wales with their reſolutions, than a meſſage was brought from his Majeſty to the Houſe, ſtating his happy recovery, and capability of again attending to the affairs of the Nation.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the joy of the Nation, on ſeeing their beloved Monarch, once more on his Throne; the Illuminations which took place, were the moſt ſplendid ever beheld, and the Proceſſion to St. Pauls, to return thanks to God for his kind interference, in reſtoring the King to his people, was a moſt ſolemn, awful, and magnificent ſight.

The

The ORDER of PROCESSION was as follows.

Conſtables of the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, two and two.
Firemen, ditto, two and two.
Yeomen of the Guards.
Members of the Houſe of Commons, in their Coaches.
The Speaker's State-Coach.
The Houſe of Lords, in Coaches, according to their Precedency, viz.
Barons, Biſhops, Viſcounts, Earls, Marquiſſes, Dukes.
The Archbiſhops of York and Canterbury.
The Lord Chancellor, in his State-Coach.
Duke of Cumberland's State-Coach.
Duke of Glouceſter's State-Coach.
The Royal Horſe Guards, two and two.
Duke of York in his State-Coach, drawn by Six Black Horſes.
Soldiers and Pioneers.
Sir Watkin Lewis, on Horſeback.
The Artillery Company, two and two.
The City Archers, with their Bows and Arrows.
The Royal Horſe Guards.

The

The Prince of Wales in his State-Coach, drawn by Six White Horſes.
The Royal Horſe Guards.
Common Council and Sheriffs, on Horſeback.
The Lord Mayor's Mace-bearer, ditto.
The Lord Mayor, with the City-Sword, ditto.
The King's Trumpeters.
The Royal Horſe Guards.
Carriages of the Queen's Bedchamber Women and Maids of Honour.
The Equerries.
The Ladies of the Bedchamber.
Lords of the Bedchamber.
Lord Chamberlain.
Maſter of the Horſe in his Chariot, drawn by Six Bay Horſes.
The three elder Princeſſes.
The KING and QUEEN,
In their State-Coach, drawn by Eight Cream-coloured Horſes.
A Body of Horſe Guards, &c.

On their arrival at Temple-Bar, they were received by the Lord Mayor, ſheriffs, two aldermen, and four commoners: his lordſhip having preſented the ſword and keys, they preceded their majeſties (uncovered and on horſe-

horſeback) to the cathedral; where, at twelve o'clock, they arrived; and entering the weſt door, proceeded to the throne of ſtate at the weſt end of the choir; and the peers, peereſſes, &c. &c. being in their places, the ſervice was read by the reverend Mr. Moore; the Litany chanted by the reverend Meſſrs. Gibbons and Pearce; the altar ſervice by the dean and two ſenior reſidentiaries; the anthem (by the King's expreſs deſire) "O Lord, thou haſt ſearched me out, and known me," was ſung by the gentlemen of the choir, the ſolo parts by the reverend Mr. Clarke, Meſſrs. Hudſon, Bellamy, and Gore. The ſermon was preached by the biſhop of London.

To render this ſcene more pleaſing, near 6000 children belonging to the ſeveral charity ſchools were aſſembled on the occaſion, dreſſed in new clothes, & ſeated under the dome, at the ſight of which their majeſties expreſſed the greateſt ſatisfaction. Three rows of grenadier guards were on each ſide the iſle, from the door to the dome, and the whole formed an effect beautiful beyond deſcription.

On the return from St. Paul's the order of the proceſſion was changed. Their Majeſties, the Royal Family, and their immediate attendants firſt left the cathedral. The lord-

chan-

chancellor and the ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, with a ſmall number of carriages followed.

On this auguſt occaſion the Park and Tower guns were fired; 1ſt, When their Majeſties ſet out from St. James's; 2dly, on their entering the city; and 3dly, on the return of their Majeſties.

Notwithſtanding the immenſe crowds from all parts of the country, and even from France, the whole proceſſion was ſo well conducted, that not a ſingle accident happened.

What a pleaſing Picture, to ſee a King ſo beloved, that his Subjects are vieing with each other, in being dutiful and affectionate; and a people ſo happy, as to have a ruler, ſo truly parental, good, and great, that their welfare is his only conſideration.

What a bleſſing would it be, if the above Statement could be applied to all mankind; but the imperfection of human nature is ſuch, that ſuch a proſpect is not to be expected: and the melancholy events which paſſed this year in France, forms a moſt ſtriking contraſt.

Lewis XVIth King of France, owing to a very ſhameful waſte of the public money, found himſelf obliged to apply to extraordinary means

means to raiſe ſupplies; which not being altogether agreeable to his ſubjects, was the means of producing great diſcontent, and conſequently violent oppoſition. The hiſtory of mankind fully proves, that the ſeeds of diſſention, once ſown between a Monarch and his ſubjects; it requires the utmoſt calmneſs, ſteadineſs, and perſeverance to eradicate them The French not poſſeſſing thoſe qualities, and their minds being extremely agitated, very dreadful conſequences followed: the King was ſeized, impriſoned, and after a mock Trial Guillotined. The Queen, and Princeſs Elizabeth, ſoon after ſhared the ſame fate, and the Dauphin died in conſequence of his long impriſonment, and the ill treatment he received.

The Princeſs Royal, who alone had the good fortune to eſcape their vengeance, was exchanged for ſome Officers, who were priſoners in Germany.

It is impoſſible to have a more moral leſſon than this, we one day ſee a King, the moſt arbitrary Monarch in Europe, living in the midſt of profuſion & all the vaſt luxuries the world can produce: the next day how altered is the ſcene, we behold him ſeized by a band of Ruffians, and thrown into priſon; we ſee him

him ill-treated and inſulted by a mean, deſpicable wretch, whoſe crimes perhaps outnumber the hairs of his head. Such are the viciſſitudes of Human Life!

When once regularity and order is diſturbed, there is no knowing where the miſchief may end. The King now depoſed, France is torn in pieces by faction, and worried by men, who deſerve no better name than vermin. Party after party gained the victory, reign, and are murdered. Trade is annihilated, and the cultivation of the Country totally neglected. The Huſbandmen and Manufacturers are dragged to the Field to fight their numerous enemies. And the Priſons are filled with ſuſpected perſons, who are Guillotined without trial to make room for others.

In 1790 the Kingdom had near been engaged in a War with Spain, in conſequence of two of our Trading Veſſels having been taken by them, at Nootka Sound, on the north weſt Coaſt of America; but the diſpute was happily ſettled by negotiation, and proper recompence was made to the parties injured.

The war in India was terminated in 1791, and Tippoo Sultan completely humbled by Marquis Cornwallis.

The French Revolutioniſts at this time began to diſturb the repoſe of Europe, by diſſeminating their levelling principles, and endeavouring to corrupt the minds of all orders of ſociety: to effect which, many Frenchmen were diſperſed abroad, and particularly in England; who by their ſeducive arts, ſoon gained over to their party numbers of the lower claſſes of the people. One Thomas Paine, a diſappointed American; alſo, publiſhed a Work, called the Rights of Man; which was bought up by the Mechanics, with wonderful avidity; encouraged by the ſucceſs of it, he ſoon publiſhed a Second Part, ſo very ſcurrilous and impious, that he was proſecuted for a libel, and to eſcape the juſt vengeance of an injured Country, fled to France; where he was received by the National Aſſembly, and ſoon after elected a Member; even there, he was ſoon univerſally deteſted, on account of his artful Villainy: and his ignorance of the French Language, and Cuſtoms, was the only thing which prevented him being brought to the ſcaffold.

The Engliſh Government were at this time remarkably watchful indeed. France now preſented ſo dreadful a picture, that it was neceſſary to uſe every precaution; the Habeas

Corpus Act was therefore ſuſpended, and many perſons were impriſoned for conſpiring againſt the King and Conſtitution; ſome were tranſported to Botany Bay, and Watts and ſome others were executed. Afflicting as ſuch an idea muſt be, ſtill it was neceſſity that demanded it, and being rigorous in time, has no doubt ſaved the lives of thouſands.

On the 4th of June 1794, Lord Howe fell in with the French Fleet, and after a moſt deſperate action defeated them, taking ſeven ſail of the line, one of which, ſunk before ſhe could be got into Port. Admiral Hotham, alſo gained an advantage over the French Fleet, in the Mediterranean, and took two Ships, which had been previouſly diſabled in a gale of wind.

On the 23d of June 1795, Lord Bridport came up with the French Fleet, cloſe in Port L'Orient, and notwithſtanding he was near to ſome Batteries, and there was a ſtrong naval Fort in front of him, he took after a ſmart engagement, three of their Ships.

In 1797, a dreadful Mutiny broke out among the Sailors of our Fleets, which had near had the moſt direful conſequences: for if our enemies had but at that time attempted any thing againſt us, they muſt have been ſuc-

ceſsful; very fortunately, however, one of the Ships made her eſcape, there ſoon followed a general diſtruſt among them; and on a general pardon being offered to all but the Ringleaders, they returned to their duty: Parker the principal was hanged, and many others. The year 1797 is remarkable for the victory obtained over the Spaniſh Fleet, by Admiral Jervis, now Earl St. Vincent; and 1798 by Duncan's Victory over the Dutch; and Nelſon's glorious Victory over the French at the Mouth of the Nile.

FINIS.

B M